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CONTENTS

NOTICE TO READERS: An * indicates material not disseminated in electronic form.

INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Underlines 'Solidarity' With Saudis *[SPA]* 1
PLO's Qaddumi on Arab League Headquarters Move *[Algiers VOP]* 1
Positions of 'Some' Palestinians Criticized *[Damascus Radio]* 1

ARAB AFRICA

Algeria

Newspaper Reappears Following Two-Day Strike *[Algiers Radio]* 2

Egypt

Officers Reportedly Refuse Orders, Flee Country *[Baghdad Radio]* 2
Al-Huss Comments on Meeting With Mubarak *[MENA]* 2
    Departs After Two-Day Visit *[MENA]* 2
Saudi Foreign Minister Delivers Fahd Message *[MENA]* 2
    Departs After Talks *[MENA]* 2
Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister *[MENA]* 3
Argentine Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Mubarak Envoy Leaves for India With Message *[MENA]* 3
Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Issues Statement *[Cairo Radio]* 3
Shaykh Al-Sha'rawi Cables Saddam on Withdrawing *[MENA]* 3
Party Leader Criticizes Press Handling of Crisis *[AL-AHRAR 3 Sep]* 4
Saddam-Backed 'Terrorism' Said Targeting Egypt *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Sep]* 5
TV Program Views Gulf Situation, Arab Unity *[Cairo TV]* 5
Sudanese Stance, Reporting on Crisis Assailed *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Sep]* 6
Editorial Views Ways To Counter Embargo Failure *[AL-AHRAM 6 Sep]* 7
U.S. Criticized for Supplying Arms to Israel *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Sep]* 7
Article Critical of 'Arafat, Multiple 'Solutions' *[MENA]* 8
Columnist Says Jordanians Mistreating Egyptians *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 8 Sep]* 8
Columnist Welcomes Klibi Resignation *[AL-JUMHURIYAH 6 Sep]* 9
Commentator Reacts to Saddam's Oil Initiative *[Cairo Radio]* 10
Egypt, Soviet Union Sign Trade Protocol *[MENA]* 11
Libyan Television Official Arrives on Visit *[MENA]* 11
Saudi Investment To Finance New Enterprises *[MENA]* 11

Libya

People's Assembly Official Receives Iraqi Message *[JANA]* 11
Country's First Journalists' Union Established *[JANA]* 11

Morocco

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Rabat *[Rabat Radio]* 11
    Received by King Hassan *[Rabat Radio]* 12
    Makes Departure Statement *[Rabat TV]* 12

Tunisia

- Chamber of Deputies Holds Extraordinary Session 12
  - Karoui Speaks on Gulf Crisis *[Tunis Radio]* 12
  - Foreign, Economics Ministers Speak *[Tunis Radio]* 13
- Ministry Views Arab League Transfer to Cairo *[Tunis Radio]* 14

ARABIAN PENINSULA

Bahrain

- Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff Departs 11 Sep *[WAKH]* 15

Kuwait

- Reports Indicate Intensified Resistance Operations *[Muscat TV]* 15
- Commander Says Armed Forces Joining Resistance *[London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT 6 Sep]* 15
- Resistance Publications Cited on Situation *[London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 8 Sep]* 15
- National Airlines To Relocate to Cairo *[Cairo Radio]* 16
- Kuwaitis Abroad To Receive Financial Assistance *[London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI 6 Sep]* 16
- Reportage on Crown Prince Trip to Europe *[cross-reference]* 17
- Amir Denounces 'Barbaric' Iraqi Moves *[Riyadh TV]* 17
- Shaykh Sa'ad Interviewed by KUNA in Paris *[SPA]* 17
- Commentaries on Gulf Crisis Continue 17
  - Libyan Actions Examined *[Cairo AL-ANBA']* 17
- Panamanian Ship First To Leave Since 2 Aug *[AFP]* 18

Oman

- Italian Envoy Arrives With Cossiga Message *[WAKH]* 18
  - Meets With Qabus *[WAKH]* 18
- Official on Arab League Transfer, Venice Meeting *[WAKH]* 19

Qatar

- Foreign Ministry on Support for Palestinians *[MENA]* 19
- Amir Receives Message From Italian Official *[WAKH]* 19
- Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Amir *[WAKH]* 19

Saudi Arabia

- Fahd Orders $5 Million for Jordan Refugees *[Riyadh TV]* 19
- Prince Bandar Denies Differences With Command *[MAP]* 19
- Oil Minister Comments on Iraqi 'Free Oil' Offer *[Riyadh TV]* 20
- Foreign Minister Meets Press on Gulf Crisis *[SPA]* 20
- Pakistani Oil Minister Holds News Conference *[SPA]* 22
- Islamic League Chief Delivers Message to Soldiers *[Riyadh TV]* 22
- Cabinet Discusses Female Military Service *[Riyadh TV]* 22
- Foreign Minister Receives UK's Kaufman *[SPA]* 22
- Foreign Minister Meets With Somali Counterpart *[SPA]* 23

United Arab Emirates

- Finnish Envoy to Kuwait Presents Credentials *[Helsinki Radio]* 23
- 260 Indians Leave Dubayy for Bombay 7 Sep *[AFP]* 23

Yemen

- Salih Receives Soviet Military Delegation 10 Sep *[Sanaa Radio]* 23
- DPRK Minister Arrives To 'Promote Relations' *[Sanaa Radio]* 23

    Presidential Council Discusses Hurd Visit *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 23
    President Regrets 'Change' in French Position *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 24
    Prime Minister Highlights Media Role in Crisis *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 24
    Prime Minister on Crisis, Return of Yemenis *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 25
    Envoys Depart for Morocco, Ethiopia *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 25
    Salih Receives Message From Tunisian President *[Sanaa Radio]* ... 25

IRAQ

Saddam Initiative Offers Free Oil to Third World *[Baghdad TV]* ... 26
'Aziz Explains Historical Background to Events *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Sep]* ... 26
Opposition Reportedly Plans Government-in-Exile *[Cairo Radio]* ... 32
Kuwaiti Citizens Ordered To Turn in Firearms *[AL-NIDA' 8 Sep]* ... 32
Editor on 'Sheer Lies' of King Fahd Speech *[INA]* ... 32
'Aziz Says Israel Part of 'Aggressive' Alliance *[INA]* ... 33
Saddam Signs Decision on Trade, Economic 'Crimes' *[AL-THAWRAH 9 Sep]* ... 34
Reports on Egyptians Forced To Join Army Denied *[INA]* ... 34
More POW's Exchanged With Iran ... 34
    9 Sep *[INA]* ... 34
    10 Sep *[INA]* ... 34

ISRAEL

Levi on Trip to U.S., Delegation Visit to USSR *[IDF Radio]* ... 35
    Impact of Visit Analyzed *['AL HAMISHMAR 11 Sep]* ... 36
Shamir on Effects of Crisis on Peace Initiative *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
    Sees Two Forms of Possible Iraqi Attack *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 37
Arens on Arab Military Buildup, U.S.-Syrian Ties *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
Arens Expects 'Significant' Military Aid From U.S. *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 38
Peres Sure of U.S. Victory in Gulf Crisis *[Jerusalem TV]* ... 38
Proposed Israeli-Syrian Meeting Termed 'Canard' *[DAVAR 12 Sep]* ... 39
Shamir's Office on Possible SHAS Withdrawal *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 39
Hamas Threatens Expulsion of Fatah Men From Camp *[Jerusalem Radio]* ... 39

JORDAN

'Hasty' Decision To Transfer Arab League Decried *[AL-DUSTUR 11 Sep]* ... 40
    King Cables Klibi on Resignation *[Amman Radio]* ... 40
Continued Political Mediation Efforts Affirmed *[AL-RA'Y 10 Sep]* ... 40
Saudi Media Accused of 'Falsifying' Facts *[AL-RA'Y 9 Sep]* ... 41
House Speaker, Others on Coping With Refugees *[JORDAN TIMES 11 Sep]* ... 41
Economic Effects of Sanctions, Aid Examined ... 42
    Business Sector *[JORDAN TIMES 12 Sep]* ... 42
    Agriculture Sector *[SAWT AL-SHA'B 12 Sep]* ... 43
    Al-'Aqabah Port Activity Down *[Amman Radio]* ... 44
TIMES Lauds Outcome of Helsinki Summit *[JORDAN TIMES 10 Sep]* ... 44
British Development Minister Arrives, in Amman *[Amman Radio]* ... 45

LEBANON

Al-Huss Returns From Cairo Arab League Meeting *[Beirut Radio]* ... 46
Israeli Forces Shell Hizballah Base, Jarju' *[Beirut Radio]* ... 46
Joint Force Closes FRC Offices in Sidon *[RFL]* ... 46
Hizballah Issues Statement on Sidon Fighting *[Voice of the Oppressed]* ... 46
Cholera Victims Reported in Tripoli, Other Areas *[VOL]* ... 46

SOUTH ASIA

Bangladesh

    Embassy in Kuwait To Close; Ershad To Visit Turkey *[Dhaka Radio]* ... 47

- Iraq Offers To Fly Bangladeshis, Indians Home *[AFP]* 47
- Nationals Returning From Gulf Cite Iraqi Abuse *[London International]* 47
- French Plane To Evacuate Stranded Nationals *[Dhaka International]* 48
- College Teachers Start Token Strike on Services *[AFP]* 48

India

- 'Official' Statement on Helsinki Summit Reported *[ISI]* 48
  - Spokesman Welcomes Outcome *[Delhi Radio]* 49
  - Commentary Praises Meeting *[Delhi International]* 49
- PRC Leaders Stress Cooperation, Note Progress *[Delhi Radio]* 50
- Delhi Denies U.S. Navy Intercepted Indian Ship *[Delhi Radio]* 50
- Israeli Offer To Evacuate Nationals Rejected *[Delhi Radio]* 50
- Plan Drawn Up To Resettle Returning Nationals *[Delhi Radio]* 51
- Singh Consults With Party Leaders on Punjab *[Delhi Radio]* 51
- Maoist Group Kidnaps Six in Andhra Pradesh *[Delohi Radio]* 51
- Further Deaths in Reservation-Related Violence *[Delhi Radio]* 51
- Further on Killing of Militants in Kashmir Valley *[Delhi Radio]* 51

Iran

- USSR Troops' Shooting of Fisherman Protested *[IRNA]* 52
- Vietnamese Minister Ends Visit, Departs *[IRNA]* 52
- Shiite Prisoners in Kuwait 'Handed' to Iran *[Beirut AL-SHIRA' 10 Sep]* 52
- Bani-Sadr Sees Continued Differences With Saddam *[UKAZ 8 Sep]* 52
- Editorial Says Ties With Iraq 'Advisable' *[TEHRAN TIMES 1 Sep]* 53
- Editorial Views 'Problem' of Foreigners in Mideast *[TEHRAN TIMES 25 Aug]* 53
- IRNA Comments on Helsinki Summit, Gulf Crisis 54
- Editorials Comment on Gulf Crisis, U.S. Role 55
  - Intentions of Iraq, West *[JOMHURI-HE ESLAMI 19 Aug]* 55
  - U.S. Policy Termed 'Quixotic' *[IRNA]* 56
  - Warning on Post-Saddam Era *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 23 Aug]* 57
  - Benefits for U.S. Viewed *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 27 Aug]* 57
  - Efforts To Find Diplomatic Solution *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 1 Sep]* 58
- Editorials Criticize Saudi Arabia's Involvement 59
  - Saudi Effort To 'Undermine' OPEC *[TEHRAN TIMES 20 Aug]* 59
  - Saudi Moves Seek To Benefit West *[TEHRAN TIMES 23 Aug]* 59
- Tehran on Prospects for Improved Ties With EC *[Tehran Radio]* 60
- Editorial Opposes OPEC Production Increase *[KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL 25 Aug]* 61
- Editorial Praises Aid to Foreigners Transit *[TEHRAN TIMES 27 Aug]* 62
- POW Exchange Occurs With Iraq in Khosravi *[Tehran Radio]* 62
  - POW's Total Over 13,500 *[IRNA]* 62
- Officials Seize Two Drug Consignments *[Tehran Radio]* 62
  - Further on Drug Operations *[IRNA]* 63
- *Iraqis Continue To Hold Occupied Land *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 63
- *Thousands of Iranians Residing in Kuwait Return *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 64
- *First Domestically Built Maritime Bus Launched *[KEYHAN 26 Jul]* 65
- *Qom Lecturers Support Assembly of Experts *[KEYHAN 23 Jul]* 65
- *Deputy President on Presale of Petrochemicals *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 65
- *Volume of Trade With Thailand Increased *[KEYHAN 11 Aug]* 66
- *Value of Thailand Trade Reaches $200 Million *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 66
- *Commentary on New Crisis in Leadership *[Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM 31 Jul]* 66
- *Ministry of Heavy Industries Appointments *[KEYHAN 5 Aug]* 68
- *New Police Appointments Announced *[KEYHAN 14 Aug]* 68
  - *Further Announcements *[KEYHAN-E HAVA'I 29 Aug]* 69
- *Martyr Foundation To Build University *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 69
- *Graduates, Charges Permitted To Bring in Cars *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 69
- *Minister on Teaching, Facilities Problems *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 70
- *Experts Estimate Repair of Sefid Rud Dam *[London KEYHAN 23 Aug]* 70
- *RESALAT Report on 15 Jul 90 Majles Session *[16 Jul]* 70
- *RESALAT Report on 17 Jul 90 Majles Session *[RESALAT 18 Jul]* 75

Pakistan

Premier Jatoi Leaves for Saudi Arabia, UAE *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
Spokesman Denies PRC Arms Liaison for Iraq *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
President Khan To Visit China 20-25 Sep *[Islamabad Radio]* 80
Former PPP Minister Arrested in Loralai *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
APP Details Corruption Cases Against Bhutto *[Islamabad Radio]* 81
    Two New Charges Filed *[AFP]* 81
Officials Seize 30 Kg Heroin in Karachi *[THE NATION 1 Sep]* 81

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reports Minister's Visit to Kuwait, Iraq 81
EEC To Meet Evacuation Cost for Sri Lankans *[Colombo Radio]* 82
Security Forces Arrest 10 LTTE Terrorists *[LANKAPUVATH]* 82
50 Tamils Feared Killed by 'Terrorist' Group *[Delhi Radio]* 82
Eastern Province Calmer as Troops Pursue LTTE *[LANKAPUVATH]* 82
LTTE Launches Attacks From Jaffna Hospital *[Colombo International]* 82

Palestinian Affairs

PLO Underlines 'Solidarity' With Saudis

LD1109175190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1620 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 11 September SPA—The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al Sa'ud, has received a message from Mr. Hani al-Hasan, political adviser to President Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine. This is the text of the message:

The custodian of the two holy mosques: May God protect you and take you under his care;

I read today the communique published by SPA in which an official Saudi spokesman announced the continuation of the firm support of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia for the Palestinian people, their just cause, and their legitimate struggle to set up their own independent state.

While I greet the Kingdom's clear answer to those who dream of a rift—God forbid—between the Saudi and Palestinian peoples and their leaderships, I have the honor of affirming to you our solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, its king, government, and people, particularly in these difficult days and circumstances currently witnessed by our region in general, and the Gulf in particular.

Together with our thanks and appreciation to you, the custodian of the two holy mosques, for your constant care for the Palestinian community in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and for your continuous financial and political support for the Palestinian cause and people, I affirm to you that the soil of the sacred land is dear to us and is as cherished as the soil of holy Jerusalem and the soil of Palestine: and therefore, the security of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and of its sovereignty on its territory is, like any other Arab land, a matter that interests the Palestinian people and its leadership, and we are prepared to offer what is dear and expensive to defend it and preserve its security and sovereignty.

Custodian of the two holy mosques,

Your firm and permanent support of the Palestinian cause does not need to be mentioned or stressed. Your effective role with the U.S. Administration for the good of the Palestinian combatants and the Palestinian people during the siege of Beirut, and your continuous financial support for the Palestinian revolution, and more important than that, the practice of keeping one's word, promise, and pledge—all this has traced for you a shining page that history will mention with all admiration and appreciation.

All honorable men appreciate your efforts to arrive at a political solution that averts destruction for the region and restores to the Kuwaiti people their rights.

The peace and blessing of God be upon you.

Hani al-Hasan

Political adviser to the brother president Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine.

PLO's Qaddumi on Arab League Headquarters Move

LD1109174390 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The head of the PLO political department, Abu Lutf [Faruq Qaddumi], has made an exclusive statement to the Palestinian news agency WAFA, on the transfer of the Arab League headquarters. Here is the text of the statement:

In view of the difficult and extraordinary circumstances through which the Arab nation is passing because of the Gulf crisis, we urge all our brothers to be patient and reflective in dealing with the issue of transferring the Arab League [headquarters] at this stage, when we are witnessing a crisis in Arab relations, in order to avoid the expected negative possibilities resulting from the decision adopted by the recent meeting in Cairo on 10 September. Considering that Palestine is the current chairman of the Arab League ministerial council, we believe that there is a need to discuss the issue at the next ordinary session, which it has been unanimously decided is to be held in Tunis on Monday, 17 September, in order to take an appropriate unanimous decision which will bolster joint Arab action and safeguard the Arab League as the sole Arab framework acceptable to everyone for dealing with our Arab issues and problems.

Positions of 'Some' Palestinians Criticized

JN1109192690 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1530 GMT 9 Sep 90

[From the "Palestine" broadcast: "Talk of the Return" by 'Abd-al-Rahman Ghunaym]

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] If the actions of some people in our Palestinian arena—starting with the adoption of illogical positions regarding a crisis in the Arab arena, and ending with stirring up a side conflict between Palestinian factions which resulted in the deaths of scores of people for no reason—have brought about sorrow and sadness, our knowledge of the people who carry out these acts and the fact that they do not represent our people's determination, express their aspirations, or fulfill their duties to serve their cause as they should, will enable us to overcome the damage they are trying to inflict on our cause; and to protect this cause and continue the intifadah, adhere to our national unity, and abandon all those who try to stab at this unity. This will also enable us to be optimistic that a better futurewill inevitably be achieved for our Palestinian national struggle, after our brothers finally manage to distinguish between black and white.

Our great people's intifadah inside the occupied homeland is the origin, the framework, the hope, and the focal point of our national struggle, toward which all efforts must be pooled.

We are quite certain that our people, who are great through their struggles, sacrifices, and determination to achieve their national aspirations, will be able to wrest victory from the mouths of their enemies. We are also certain that a glorious, bright future for our people will definitely emerge.

Algeria

Newspaper Reappears Following Two-Day Strike

LD1209101690 Algiers Domestic Service in French 0600 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] AL-MUJAHID is reappearing today after two days of strike. Work has been resumed following a meeting between representatives of the government and the General Secretariat of the FLN [National Liberation Front] Central Committee. The committee of AL-MUJAHID workers is not totally reassured and has decided to give the government until 30 September to carry out its commitments.

In a joint statement, the government indicated that it had set in motion the process of ceding the title AL-MUJAHID and all its printing equipment to the FLN party.

The workers' committee remains mobilized to pursue this issue. An ad hoc committee has been set up to follow all the operations which will be required for the retrocession of AL-MUJAHID and its equipment to the FLN.

While the dispute at AL-MUJAHID is not entirely over, staff at AL-SHA'B are concerned about the future of this newspaper. About 20 journalists have decided to strike for three days beginning today. With this decision, the journalists on strike intend to make officials aware of the situation which AL-SHA'B is currently facing.

Egypt

Officers Reportedly Refuse Orders, Flee Country

JN1109152490 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] A number of senior Egyptian officers have refused to join their units which are to be dispatched by the Egyptian regime to Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] to participate with the U.S. and foreign forces in aggression against Iraq. Reports received from Cairo today said that a large number of these officers have managed to flee Egypt to avoid their dispatch orders.

Al-Huss Comments on Meeting With Mubarak

NC1109171190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0745 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Sep (MENA)—Lebanese Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss has stated that his meeting with President Husni Mubarak today was a good opportunity for discussing the present Arab situation in general, a matter of interest to every Arab official and citizen.

In a statement following his meeting with President Mubarak, Dr. al-Huss said they also discussed the situation in Lebanon. He stressed that President Mubarak follows the situation in Lebanon very closely. He added that he briefed President Mubarak on the latest situation in Lebanon, especially on the economic and social levels.

Dr. al-Huss said that he had asked President Mubarak's help in including Lebanon among the countries which have suffered as a result of the Gulf crisis so that it may obtain aid that will help it overcome its current difficulties.

Dr. al-Huss said that President Mubarak showed understanding, cooperation, and sympathy toward Lebanon. He added that the Egyptian president expressed his readiness to do his utmost to help Lebanon in this respect.

On the impact of the Gulf crisis on Lebanon, Dr. al-Huss said that the Gulf crisis—meaning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait—has had direct results on the situation in Lebanon. He said that the Lebanese are suffering from the negative effects of this crisis, which have affected all walks of life in Lebanon.

Departs After Two-Day Visit

NC1109160990 Cairo MENA in English 1439 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 11 (MENA)—Dr. Salim al-Huss, Lebanese premier and foreign minister, left here today following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he took part in the emergency meeting of the Arab League Ministerial Council. The meeting held here yesterday passed a resolution on returning the Arab League secretariat from Tunisia to its permanent Cairo head quarters .

Saudi Foreign Minister Delivers Fahd Message

NC1109121190 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Sep (MENA)—Following his 90-minute meeting with President Husni Mubarak this morning, Saudi Foreign Minister Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal said that he had conveyed a message from King Fahd to President Mubarak. He said that the message deals with coordination and cooperation among Arab leaders who believe in Arab solidarity and joint Arab destiny as this has become necessary at this stage to face the tragedy we are all encountering.

Prince al-Faysal said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia are in full agreement. They are striving to resolve this problem in a way conducive to Arab interests. He said that this can only come about through the implementation of the Arab summit and Arab League resolutions, which have been transformed into a firm international stand demanding the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the return of legality. He said this is goal which we are all trying to achieve.

Departs After Talks

NC1109155790 Cairo MENA in English 1525 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept. 11(MENA)—Saudi Foreign Minister Sa'ud al-Faysal left here today following a two-day visit to Egypt during which he met with President Husni Mubarak.

Al-Faysal took part in the urgent meeting of Arab foreign ministers which wound up yesterday.

He also held a session of talks with Dr. Usamah al-Baz, first foreign under secretary and director of the president's office for political affairs, on the situation in the Gulf and the latest developments there.

Mubarak Receives Kuwaiti Foreign Minister

NC1109114290 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0946 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Alexandria, 11 Sep (MENA)—President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received Shaykh Sabah al-Ahmad al-Jabir, Kuwaiti deputy prime minister and foreign minister, this morning.

Dr. 'Abd-al-Rahman al-'Awadi, Kuwaiti minister of state for cabinet affairs, and the Kuwaiti ambassador in Cairo attended the meeting.

Argentine Foreign Minister Arrives in Cairo

NC1109210190 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Argentine Foreign Minister Domingo Cavallo arrived in Cairo this evening on a two-day visit to Egypt during which he will be received by President Husni Mubarak. He will also hold talks with Dr. Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs, on developments in the Gulf and Middle East regions and bilateral relations.

Speaking upon arrival, the Argentine minister said he is carrying a message from Argentine President Carlos Menem to President Husni Mubarak. He affirmed his country's support for the results of the U.S.-Soviet summit to find a solution to the Gulf problem, which poses a threat to world's security. He urged the world's countries to adopt an immediate stand condemning the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and demanding the withdrawal of Iraqi troops. He said cooperation by the two superpowers will help avert the danger threatening the world.

The Argentine foreign minister hoped a solution will be found for the Palestinian issue that can serve all the parties' interests and enable them to live within secure borders. He praised the longstanding ties linking Egypt and Argentine and hoped these ties will be further consolidated.

Mubarak Envoy Leaves for India With Message

NC0809182890 Cairo MENA in English 1557 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sep 8 (MENA)—Ambassador Shafi' 'Abd-al-Majid, assistant foreign minister and personal envoy of President Husni Mubarak, left here tonight for New Delhi to convey a message from President Mubarak to Indian Premier V.P. Singh.

Before his departure, Ambassador Shafi' said that the message covered the current situation in the Gulf region and Egypt's efforts to avoid the eruption of war in the region within the framework of the UN and the Arab League resolutions.

The Indian premier is expected to receive President Mubarak's envoy on Monday [10 September].

Afro-Asian Solidarity Committee Issues Statement

NC1009125690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] The Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity has issued a statement on the emergency session of the Arab League Ministerial Council which will held in Cairo.

In the statement, the committee says: Under these unprecedented circumstances which pose a threat to the future of Arab states, the Egyptian Committee for Afro-Asian Solidarity stresses the importance of holding to and protecting the Arab League against the dangers of discord and division. The committee appeals to the Arab League General Secretariat, which is holding its emergency meeting in Cairo, to embark quickly on implementing the necessary procedures for moving its headquarters to Cairo and electing a secretary-general, so that the Secretariat can undertake its role in bringing the members together and maintaining the mimimum acceptable level of joint Arab action.

During these very dangerous days, the call to find an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis will find under the dome of the Arab League the proper umbrella and the primary tool for expressing what the Arabs wish and agree upon to preserve their rights and interests.

Shaykh Al-Sha'rawi Cables Saddam on Withdrawing

NC1009190890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1311 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—His Eminence Shaykh Muhammad Mutawalli al-Sha'rawi has called on Iraqi President Saddam Husayn to withdraw from Kuwait as he did from Iran.

In a cable to the Iraqi president on the occasion marking the convocation of the Islamic League conference in Mecca today, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi said: I still expect you to do something good. As you have relinquished your right in Iran, I pray the Almighty that you will exalt yourself and relinquish what does not belong to you in Kuwait.

In the cable, which al-Sha'rawi sent from the hospital where he is being treated, Shaykh al-Sha'rawi said the best people who descend from the chaste would do good rather than evil. Giving an example, al-Sha'rawi quoted the [Biblical and Koranic] story of Joseph and his brothers, who started by saying "Slay ye Joseph", then abandoned the idea and said "or cast him out to some unknown land," and finally reduced that to "throw him down to the bottom of the well," hoping that "he will be picked up by some caravan of travelers." [Koranic verses]. By doing so, al-Sha'rawi said, you provide proof to those who doubt the truthfulness of your descent.

Party Leader Criticizes Press Handling of Crisis

JN1109082290 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic
[illegible] Sep 90 pp 1, 6

[Article by Mustafa Kamil Murad, leader of the Liberal Socialist Party [LSP] and chairman of the AL-AHRAR board of directors: "No War in the Gulf"]

[Excerpts] The Gulf crisis has continued to preoccupy the Arab and world public and to make headlines in world newspapers and radios. Statements continue to be made by Arab kings and presidents and also by non-Arab heads of state. It is regrettable that the overwhelming majority of Egyptian newspapers, particularly the state-owned papers, as well as the Wafd Party newspaper, have continued to pursue a demagogic approach, an approach that stirs up emotions against President Saddam Husayn and all those who support or side with him. These papers do not address the people's minds. They show lack of logic and fail to shed light on the causes of the crisis. Consequently, they do not offer solutions. As for the other opposition papers, AL-AHALI and AL-'AMAL, they are pursuing an objective approach away from excitement and clamor regardless of the opinions that they have in this regard. In brief, these two papers demand an Iraqi withdrawal from Kuwait and call for their replacement by Arab and Islamic peacekeeping forces. They also call for negotiations on all causes of the conflict by the parties to the conflict under the auspices of the United Nations and the Arab League. Regarding the newspapers AL-AHRAR and AL-HAQIQAH, organs of the LSP, I am sorry to say that some of their writers have failed to commit themselves to the opinion of the party pronounced in the statement issued in the wake of the emergence of the crisis. This calls for the withdrawal of Iraqi troops from Kuwait, for their replacement by Arab and Islamic peacekeeping forces in accordance with a timetable to be set up by the United Nations and the Arab League. The party also called for negotiations between the parties to the conflict, Iraq, Kuwait, and Saudi Arabia, to be held under UN auspices and with the assistance of the Arab League. This means that the LSP seeks to safeguard Arab as well as world interests within the framework of international law and international norms, and under the auspices of international organizations and regional bodies such as the Arab League. The party believes that efforts to resolve the conflict should be detached from altercations, outbiddings, or emotional talk. The LSP believes that politics is the art of the possible, the art of improving on current reality within the confines of what is possible. That is, the LSP believes that politics has nothing to do with dreams or emotions, that it should not be based on imagination or wishful thinking, that it cannot succeed if it seeks to attain the impossible.

However, it seems that some LSP papers have allowed some of their writers to call presidents, and particularly President Saddam Husayn, names that have nothing to do with politics. The epithets used are provocative and insulting. President Saddam Husayn has been called "The Thief of Baghdad", "the Hulegu of the Arabs", and "the Hitler of the Arabs," etc. This is childish behavior that contributes nothing to resolving the conflict. Besides, some LSP youths met in a heated atmosphere and sent a cable of support to President Saddam Husayn. We within the LSP respect the free expression of opinions and the freedom of thinking. To see the opinions of all party leaders totally converge and fall in a single mold is not one of our objectives. However, we honor the opinion of the majority reached after debate and discussion. As for the minority, it has to respect the opinion of the majority. The minority has the right to express its opinions within the context of the partisan framework. But there are some party leaders who renege on the party's views and insist on upholding their own opinions. The party usually discusses the matter with them. It might take a position against them if they continue to disregard the party's views. [passage omitted]

The LSP believes that the problem can be resolved through negotiation. The party is also of the opinion that we should not despair of reaching peaceful solutions for the simple reason enunciated by the fact that the alternative, war, is a serious eventuality with terrible and devastating consequences. The consequences might be more serious than some people think. Moreover, all parties would feel the fires of such a war, those near and those far, those involved, as well as those espousing neutral positions. The wisdom of God the Almighty and His heavenly justice have affected all things since life on earth began. They will continue to do so until judgment day. And the firmament has He raised high, and He has set up the balance of justice. [Koranic verse] We are seeing evidence of this in the Kuwait crisis. The balance of terror provided by the chemical and nuclear deterrence has made the military option virtually impossible because the consequences of such an option would threaten mankind for many generations to come, especially if the nuclear bomb, God forbid, is used. This is a remote possibility. Yet, it cannot be dismissed out of hand. [passage omitted]

Concluding, I would like to say that Iraq has rejected neither negotiations nor peaceful solutions. We must encourage it to proceed in this direction rather than close the door before it. Furthermore, some Arab kings and presidents, such as King Husayn, leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and president Yasir 'Arafat, are making efforts in this regard. We should not fail to mention President Muhammad Husni Mubarak who is pursuing a polite and objective diplomatic approach to tackle this crisis, an approach that is divorced from emotionalism and vituperation, as well as hints and insinuations. We hope that the approach being pursued by President Mubarak will be a good example emulated by the state-owned papers so they can dispense with slander, vituperation, name-calling, and emotionalism. The objective is to see them use wisdom, offer well-intentioned advice, and display objectivity in the presentation of their views. May God save us from the tongues of the evil and the pens of the shameless.

Saddam-Backed 'Terrorism' Said Targeting Egypt

JN0709203090 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The Iraqi foreign minister has declared that his country might begin terrorist operations against U.S. interests in the Middle East. Saddam Husayn has summoned the two leaders of Palestinian terrorism, George Habash and Abu-al-'Abbas [Muhammad 'Abbas], to apparently agree to this campaign. It is only natural that Egypt and Saudi Arabia, in Iraq's viewpoint, are part of the U.S. interests at which the terrorist operation can be targeted.

Tariq 'Aziz' words are a warning to the security departments in Egypt. For the first time in history, terrorism gives a warning to others. This warning opens the door for other terrorist sides targeting Egypt. We know that there are extremists in Egypt—Muslims and Copts—and Israel can also carry out terrorist operations and attribute them to extremists. Moreover, there is cooperation between Israeli intelligence and some Palestinian factions. Therefore, the issue calls for a state of emergency by all security departments and citizens. Citizens should stay alert because Egypt's security is targeted by several sides, both inside and outside.

We had earlier expected the Palestinians to be the fifth column in the Arab states now that their cooperation with Saddam Husayn has been proven. They pioneered his army in Kuwait, and they represent danger for the Gulf states and Egypt. In addition, Egypt has arrested more that once members of the Iraqi Ba'th Party concocting plots and organizing demonstrations in Egypt. Moreover, students from Palestine participated in most student demonstrations, although they came to study and they are supposed to have no time for demonstrations. Yet they organized disturbances to create unrest in Egypt.

Tariq 'Aziz himself has sounded the alarm, and Saddam Husayn has received the leaders of Palestinian terrorism as shown on television. The issue has become clear. No one is blameless if Egypt faced terrorism attacks, especially since Saddam Husayn and 'Arafat consider Egypt to be the enemy and have thus dropped the traditional hostility to Israel. In fact, some Palestinian factions are cooperating with Israel in some terrorist operations in Egypt.

This Iraqi alarm warns those who pin hope on Saddam Husayn and those in Egypt who deceive themselves and defend him, ignoring his crime which is the root cause of the problem, and talk instead about the U.S. which is an offshoot of the problem. O those who defend Saddam: His bombs, conspiracies, and terrorism are clearly targeted at Egypt. Do you still defend him even though his bombs will reach everyone, whether they be those who side with truth or those who side with falsehood?

TV Program Views Gulf Situation, Arab Unity

NC1209095990 Cairo Television Service in English 1720 GMT 10 Sep 90

[From the "Spotlight on the Important News of the Week" program]

[Text] Pessimism or optimism may be allowed to govern personal feelings in some private affair, but most certainly never in predetermining national issues. Here, the view has to be strictly realistic [words indistinct] as we face the present Gulf crisis with its lacking perils and tragedies [sentence as heard]. Yes, tragedies is the word, whatever the false hopes some may feel comfortable to entertain.

Now putting optimism or pessimism aside, what is the truly realistic picture that presents itself today without cosmetics or sugarcoated words? On the one side we have Saddam Husayn who has invaded Kuwait some five weeks ago refusing to budge or even listen and mobilizing all and every potential not to tighten his grip on the newly usurped land alone but to unleash a campaign of wrath and terror against the very Arab countries that had dared so much as even denounce the treacherous invasion and the swallowing of a small unoffending peaceful country by a ruthless aggressive neighbor. We have the Baghdad tyrant forcing foreign hostages to form a human shield around strategic sites to deter an eventual attack aimed at enforcing the UN resolutions and liberating the usurped emirate of Kuwait. We have the Iraqi despot exhorting his people down the soil [as heard] under the feet of what he calls the western aggressors and invaders and threatening to use the internationally banned chemical weapons to further his ambitions and defy world unanimity. And above all we have Saddam Husayn's arrogant message to the American-Soviet summit in Helsinki warning the two superpowers that there will be no withdrawal from Kuwait and that any attempts to force the Iraqi troops out would barely [as heard] plunge the Gulf area into a state of grave anarchy.

On the other side, we have a formidable military buildup backed by the United Nations and the majority of the Arab states determined to amputate the ramified arms of the Baghdad octopus and impose a new world order in the region in consonance with the principles and provisions of the international law. We have peace endeavors pursued by the UN secretary general and the Arab League with no avail.

In other words, we have a clear equation so conflicting that it can hardly be solved without a military clash. One thing Saddam Husayn has said that is absolutely right, ironically as it may sound. Said he, the conflict is between God and the Devil. How very true. The only thing is that in his blind arrogance and conceit, he couldn't so much as even perceive where God stands and where the devil destroys. What is really pushing matters to the brink of war is that Saddam Husayn has become so tragically devious that he brands those who are desperate in their drive to defend their land and people as demons and upgrades the despot who has literally devasted the entire region, if not the whole world, looted the wealth of his neighbors, and triggered that mass exodus of hundreds of thousands of Third World nationals who had to flee the area leaving everything behind—he upgrades the despot responsible for that all to the level of divinity. In fact he believes himself to be a semi-God on earth and has been acting accordingly commanding the worship of the people for his Machiavellian ventures.

One relevant issue though, which is making itself very much felt these days and has brought up a controversy, which indeed shouldn't have been there in the first place if one thought to assess matters properly, is the issue of Arab unity and that false conjecture that the Gulf crisis has dealt a deadly blow to Arab solidarity. Now quite frankly and objectively was there really true Arab unity in the past or was it a myth that the Arab world itself should have long put in perspective with a view to changing that illusive facade which told of that which was never there—Arab solidarity? The crack was always there and the currents and undercurrents betrayed a state of affairs that may have been holding in form but never in substance. There were those countries dedicated in their drive and approach and there were those that connived and impeded anything positive and constructive.

The Arab countries that have chosen to stand with Saudi Arabia and Kuwait against Iraq, therefore, have cast off the chains of a meaningless myth that has held them in fault for decades. The confrontation with Iraq is not the end of Arab unity since of genuine Arab unity there was none. The confrontation with Iraq is the beginning of a meaningful Arab identity in world affairs. By declaring that they will go to war with Saddam Husayn if necessary, as it may well be, Egypt and the others, assuming that active role within the Arab League, have changed history. Their decision represents an attempt to escape a dying regional order as the world moves beyond the cold war. In the name of Arab unity that existed only on the most superficial level, the modern Arab states had refused until the outbreak of the Gulf crisis to recognize and cut out the moral cancer that has spread across their collective entity. They refused to confront the evil that Saddam Husayn and a few other Arab dictators have supported and come to embody. As a result Arab unity has meant a descent to the lowest common denominator for all Arabs. Saddam Husayn rather than disrupt an Arab solidarity that wasn't there has forced the Arab rulers to choose whether they will continue to mouth slogans or will act to protect themselves from a ruthless creature in their midst. Those who resist him show that Saddam Husayn does not represent Arab values or Arab nationalism, that illusive concept being forcibly invoked by some to condone the invasion of Kuwait.

For the first time in many years, therefore, a rigid discrimination has been imposed to sort out Arab governments. And for the first time in many years we can see a genuine solidarity uniting those specific Arab countries that have chosen to put fantasy aside and begin to define a new more hopeful nationalism in the post-cold war era. The Gulf crisis, therefore, rather than disrupt an Arab unity that wasn't there has precipitated a show down long overdue.

Sudanese Stance, Reporting on Crisis Assailed

JN0809164490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "Sudan's Al-Bashir and Iraq's Saddam"; all quotation marks as published]

[Text] Following is a verbatim reproduction of what appeared in a Khartoum newspaper, AL-SUDAN AL-HADITH [The New Sudan]:

"[Prime Minister] 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir could have spared himself the bother of leaving his country, or of uttering anything at all, and let everybody go to hell; but his Arab and Islamic credentials would not let him. He had to take the rough ride and argue the case with reason and logic!! The Sudanese leader—to quote Iraq's deputy prime minister Taha Yasin Ramadan, whom we met during our unannounced visit to Iraq few days ago—was among the wisest Arab leaders at the emergency Cairo Arab summit!!

How elated we were to learn that after the trip by the Sudanese leader to Baghdad, President Saddam Husayn acceded to a request by his brother to allow Iraqi vessels to be searched to ward off a devastating war. Furthermore, Iraq's 'Aziz proved equally obliging when he heeded Sudan's advice to let foreign women and children leave Baghdad..." !! The same writer, Ahmad Sulayman, writes in another column appearing in the same newspaper:

"Juveniles of the Egyptian press, and a handful of its veterans, including Khalid Muhammad Khalid, seem to relish bashing Sudan and its president—who has been tirelessly shuttling back and forth between Arab capitals, and all the while reading the stuff turned out by mercenary writers.

"Just what is there to be gained from the vicious anti-Iraq and anti-Saddam campaign? It is not as though great Iraq and its leader will thus come to any harm...! It is high time Egypt distanced itself from Communists, secularists, and other leftists who have infiltrated its newspapers and other media to create confusion.."

I would have much preferred to let Sudan be and conduct its affairs so as to advance its interests and 'Umar al-Bashir's ambitions for his people. But we will draw the line at aspersions cast on Egyptian journalists and writers, who taught Sudan's journalists how to "read." The Sudanese press have likened 'Umar al-Bashir to the flying Sindbad who has been striving toward a resolution of the Gulf crisis!! But had the Sudanese press really cared about the reputation of the

Sudanese president, it would have advised him to break loose of his fascination with Saddam, and then impress on the Iraqi leader the need to quit Kuwait and let the legitimate Kuwaiti Government be reinstated. But the question is: Will al-Bashir have the guts to do that? The answer, of course, is...no!!

If, as the Sudanese paper would have us believe, al-Bashir had higher Arab interests at heart, he would have had the guts to tell Iraq's president that the flow of foreign armies into the region must be blamed on his determination to hold on to Kuwait, plunder its wealth, annex it, and obliterate the identity of its people, before proceeding to grab the other states of the region...!

Once more, I am tempted to ask: Would Sudan's al-Bashir dare to so much as hint at that to the president of Iraq? I leave it to him and his press to answer the question.

If Sudan views the Egyptian press coverage of Iraq as mere Saddam-bashing that will leave him unscathed, we would tell this writer and others of his ilk who have a long way to go before they can boast of anything resembling professional journalism that we are not assailing Saddam personally. It is that the notion of occupation by force, the annexation of Arab land under the threat of armed force, and the displacement of an unsuspecting, peaceful people are anathema to us. Surely such concerns are weighty enough for the Egyptian press to address with detachment and objectivity...!!

As to this Sudanese writer's categorization of Egyptian journalists as communists, secularists, and what have you, we would tell him this: The Egyptian press takes pride in a shared stance that has proved impervious to any politics, and takes care to denounce the aggressor and defend legitimacy.

In conclusion, I have this to say to the Sudanese regime and its press:

Mindful of your beleaguered economy, we have, throughout the crisis, preferred not to be too hard on you as you jumped on the bandwagon of Saddam Husayn.

We have been patient with you—but our patience is not without limits.

Editorial Views Ways To Counter Embargo Failure

JN0809132590 Cairo AL-AHRAM in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 7

[Editorial: "Toward the Failure of the Boycott"]

[Text] Talk has begun circulating about deliberate and many-sided violations of the international decision to impose an economic, supposedly foolproof, embargo on Iraq, backed by the resolution allowing the use of all available means by those countries with forces in the region, in accordance with what they deem suitable to each circumstance.

There was a great deal of talk earlier about Jordan's being virtually the only outlet for the violation of the embargo resolution. Something similar to haggling took place between Amman and Washington at the highest levels, resulting in Jordan's announcement that it would abide by the resolution while receiving compensation as a party harmed by implementation of the embargo. Then, there was talk about the continuing violation of the resolution by convoys and trucks traveling in large numbers every day without letup toward eastern Jordan. The U.S. State Department intervened to announce officially that this was not the only violation; there were also other routes for smuggling from Syria and Turkey, as well as West Europe, and the smuggled goods also included military equipment.

These are statements some people believe will some day become proverbial, right from the very beginning of the crisis; in other words, they will become a definite justification at one point in time—due to repetition and the indications of the embargo's absolute failure—to pave the way for Article 42 of the UN Charter. Application of this article does not stop at an armed naval blockade, but legalizes setting up offensive deterrent forces belonging to the United Nations to wage war and achieve the previously declared goals of Security Council resolutions that were not applied successfully.

Alongside the gradual progress toward announcing the final failure of the embargo in the final analysis, the statements made from now on regarding this issue have yet another goal, which is to press the countries that have so far not participated actively in the naval blockade—they are satisfied with implementing the blockade for their part or merely announcing that they will do so—into actually participating in the military buildup, even if symbolically, because they are needed to seal the blockade so there will be no leaks. In this way, the picture of Arab efforts will be finalized with time in anticipation of the distribution of military loads and roles—when the time comes—in a more condensed and gathered manner.

If there are still some disputes about sending foodstuffs and medicines, since some countries refuse to observe it, then the allusion to the smuggling of military equipment into Iraq could be an introduction for actual condemnation of some of these countries' violating the embargo. This is an issue calling for military action and making it the focal point of interest and implementation, as well as of taking unofficial side measures against the countries that violate the embargo in order to punish them.

U.S. Criticized for Supplying Arms to Israel

JN0909175790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 3

["Arabs Get Promises, Israel Gets Arms" by Naji Qamhah]

[Text] Will the United States keep its promises this time around? U.S. State Secretary James Baker was reported yesterday by Egyptian papers to have said that the

United States will continue to work in tandem with Egypt to break the logjam of the Middle East peace process. We have heard this much often enough over the years, but we have yet to see it put into practice. We have yet to see the United States bring pressure to bear on Shamir's recalcitrant, arrogant government, so that movement on the road to peace may rekindle the hopes of desperate Palestinians.

Ironically, as Baker made his statement, the United States was consenting to supply Israel with advanced weapons, and Israel's Foreign Minister David Levi announced as he emerged from a meeting with the secretary that his country has obtained "everything"—without a single reservation—it had asked for from America.

This is yet another illustration of the practice of "Arabs get promises, Israel arms" pursued by the Americans by way of buying time and maintaining Israel's military edge over the Arabs. This is despite Egypt's oft-repeated warnings that the United States is thus wasting a golden opportunity to find a just and durable solution to the Arab-Israeli dispute.

The cogency of Egyptian arguments is now being corroborated by current developments. Thanks to pro-Israeli U.S. policies, safety valves are now closed, moderates embarrassed, extremists encouraged, and the region teetering on the brink of catastrophe.

It is high time the United States learned that instability in the Middle East must be principally blamed on Israel's continued occupation of the occupied Arab territory, and that continued U.S. backing for the occupation will remain a major obstacle to a better American image in the Arab world and more secure American interests here and further afield.

Resolute, unambiguous American support for Palestinian rights and legitimate Arab demands for an Israeli pullout from occupied Arab land would go a long way toward undercutting hardliners who hold sway with the victims of desperation.

Article Critical of 'Arafat, Multiple 'Solutions'

NC1009194590 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1340 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (MENA)—In an article in AL-AKHBAR today, journalist Musa Sabri raises questions about the Arab solution for the Gulf crisis. He says the current Arab situation is ridiculous. There is not an Arab solution, but six Arab solutions—one proposed by the Arab Maghreb countries, one by the Sudanese president, one by Yemen, one by King Husayn, one by Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi, and finally, the sixth solution which was heralded by Yasir 'Arafat before, during, and after the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

In an article entitled "The Knights of Arab Solutions," Musa Sabri refers to what he calls 'Arafat's crisis with the Egyptian press. He says 'Arafat imagines that the attack being launched against him in Egypt is an official one bearing the state's stamp. He explains that 'Arafat had addressed an "ultimatum" to Egypt in which he held President Husni Mubarak personally responsible for the attack the Egyptian press is launching against him. The writer asserts that 'Arafat's words are nothing but imagination.

Musa Sabri explains that Egyptian public opinion is more riled up with 'Arafat than the Egyptian press. What is being written is much less than what the Egyptian masses want to say, he said, referring to the hostile Palestinian stand against Egyptians in Kuwait before and after the invasion.

Sabri writes that the Palestinians set up a fifth column for Iraq during the invasion, while they were the strongest flatterers of the Kuwaiti people before the invasion.

Sabri addresses 'Arafat saying: If you want to convince the Egyptians to receive you as a guest when everyone declares that you are an unwanted guest, you will have to resolve the difficult equation in all Arab countries.

Concluding his article, Musa Sabri warns that the catastrophe is at the door. To the knights of Arab solutions he says: You gave the opportunity to foreign forces to impose a solution when you drifted away from the Arab League and refused to attend the meetings of Arab foreign ministers.

Columnist Says Jordanians Mistreating Egyptians

JN1109064790 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 12

["Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab]

[Text] On reaching the end of their tether, those seeking to fulfill a certain wish have been accustomed to resorting to Egypt where they find care, assistance, and attention.

When they rest in the lap of the Egyptian people, those that are afraid restore their safety, and the homeless and pursued feel secure.

Egypt has never given a cold shoulder to anyone who stops over in Egypt without prior notice, seeking food or shelter, because the human quality of man, in our book, is the noblest objective and the most honorable quest.

Therefore, it really pains us—the people of Egypt—that our men, women, and children should suffer this ill treatment from the Jordanian people while crossing the borders of their country coming from Iraq or Kuwait, through which they had run the gauntlet following bitter, hard days.

Frankly, we had expected the Jordanian people—not to say the Government—to be grateful, and to take the circumstances into consideration, and not appear in that regrettable picture which offends them before anybody else!

We do not want anyone to feel indebted to us. We do not want to talk about what we have given to the Jordanian people—the majority of whom are Palestinians—because historical records provide the best and most convincing evidence of this. Moreover, neither our morals nor our nature allows us to remind the Jordanians or the Palestinians that we have shared our food with them, and opened our houses to them so that both of us would enjoy the warmth of the house. We did so without seeking a reward or thank-you from anyone, but merely to please God almighty, and out of our respect to a chimerical notion of Arab brotherhood.

Of course, the Jordanian Government is directly responsible for what has been done to our sons who are lost in the desert, in the belief that by these practices it would reaffirm its loyalty to Saddam Husayn, who managed to exploit it in the worst way to gratify his ambitions. We have a long time ahead, together with the Jordanian leadership, and we will see what time has yet to reveal.

At any rate, Egypt will always remain strong and generous. It will always have the upper hand, whether some like it or not, because the sunlight can never grow dim.

Thanks to our capabilities, energies, hands, and brains, we will ride out any contingent crisis, after which we will regain more strength and stronger belief in God, earth, and the homeland.

As for them, let them hold onto melting ropes. It will not be long before they regret what they have done. Time will bear out the soundness of our view.

Columnist Welcomes Klibi Resignation

JN0709171490 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 16

[From the "Dividing Lines" column by Samir Rajab: "Let 'Klibi' Go Back to Carthage, Where He Was a Municipality Employee; His Resignation Will Not Create More Divisions; On The Contrary, His Continuation Is a Disaster, By All Standards; What Has The Tunisia League Given The Arabs? Where Was It When Egypt Was Defending The Nation's Causes Alone?"]

[Text] What does it mean for "Chedli Klibi" to resign the post of Arab League secretary-general, or to keep it? He is not a distinguished Arab figure, as though his resignation would endanger Arab interests!

Moreover, is there really a danger threatening Arab interests greater than the present danger? And what is Tunisia's weight on the Arab map to drive the "Carthage municipality employee" to resign from an important political post of which neither he nor his country had ever dreamed?

The Arab League headquarters was moved to Tunisia at a sudden moment when everyone was heedless and inattentive. This was also the result of a despicable collusion led by Saddam Husayn, the outcome of which was appointing the municipality employee a secretary-general. So, has the League—and its secretary—throughout the period of its absence from Cairo, managed to perform its proper role?

Let the Arabs pore over history books; let them learn; let them benefit from past experiences, and then pass judgments. Practical realities say that the Tunisia League was characterized by passivity, indifference, and lack of understanding; the secretary it had appointed was in no better shape!

Where was that League when Egypt was struggling to consolidate the basis for a peaceful solution to the Middle East problem in a manner that would secure for the Palestinians their legitimate rights—the solution which was approved by all the Arabs? The League's voice was inaudible, shaky, and ineffectual. Where was the Tunisia League when Egypt was defending the rights of the Arab human being at international forums, in order to create for him space for learning and living, like all human beings? Where was the League when Egypt was making maximum efforts to set up the edifice of Arab solidarity so as to unify opinions and gain more prominence and international weight?

Where was "brother" Klibi when loud cries were heard coming out of Baghdad asking for "help" against an imminent aggression by the United States, Britain, and Israel?

Moreover, what has the Tunisia League achieved in regard to the Lebanon issue except for making more Lebanese homeless, and increasing bloodshed and destruction and ruin?

Finally, does "Klibi" not feel ashamed of being biased at the inception of the Gulf crisis, guided by others' motives and self-interests without having a personal opinion or position?

Was it becoming to the Tunisian president, whose country is hosting the Arab League, to drift in his support for an Arab country's swallowing up of a League "member," notwithstanding the price and the sweet promises which no one knows will be kept or not?

Personally, I do not think that Chedli Klibi's resignation will increase Arab division; there could not be any divisions deeper and more severe than the divisions we see before our eyes these days. On the contrary, "Klibi's" resignation might alleviate the prevailing tense atmosphere because, frankly, this man lacked impartiality and lost the way to justice and soundness. Consequently, his absence from the arena would be much better than his being present to carry out his role in the service of some League members at the expense of others.

The problem is that Saddam Husayn has succeeded in destroying the "Arab force" that was the dream of the masses, and has dissipated the hope which these masses have long sought after he managed to partition and dismember the Arabs, rendering them homeless.

It causes our hearts to bleed when we hear nowadays that a group of Kuwaiti fedayeen carried out a suicidal operation inside the occupied land against the Iraqi military forces, which resulted in the destruction of several enemy tanks, the death of some of its members, and the martyrdom of the group leader.

Thus, the Arabs have become preoccupied with fighting each other, and have formed suicidal groups so that each will spill the other's blood. Despite all this, "Saddam" has managed to exercise his influence and oppression against some Arab rulers who never thought, even for a moment, that what is taking place now will lead everyone to the worst fate.

Therefore, when Saddam gives orders to the Tunisian president to order the "municipality employee" to resign his post as a secretary-general of the Arab League, and when the Tunisian president carries out these instructions verbatim, is this not considered an ordinary event in this rotten time in which Arab originality, morals, and chivalry have passed away to the second world?

Let Chedli Klibi go back to when he was an anonymous employee in the Tunisian Government. Perhaps the new secretary-general can purify the Arab atmosphere from the contamination spread by Saddam Husayn and his accessories.

Let all Arabs know that the return of the General Secretariat to Cairo will bestow on the League some dignity and respect which it lacked during its exile in Tunisia. Cairo, the official and natural headquarters of the Arab League, can, by virtue of its responsibility, civilized thought, and refined diplomacy, mend the broken threads.

Commentator Reacts to Saddam's Oil Initiative

NC1109202690 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1745 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Commentary by Bahiy-al-Din Shu'ayb: A Cheap, Rejected Bribe]

[Text] Saddam Husayn has a lot of tricks up his sleeve. Every day, he comes to us with a new riddle, anecdote, battle, or slogan. Before his trick is unveiled, he brings out another. The new trick which he announced today to the Third World countries is of the same type as those he had tried before. The audience no longer finds any amusement in his tricks.

Tonight Saddam broke the news to the Third World countries that he is willing to supply them with petroleum free of charge if these countries secure means of transport and shipping. Tonight, he assumed the role of the great benefactor who is heartbroken over the Third World countries who will suffer from oil shortage, and will suffer more from its soaring prices.

The Third World countries have certainly laughed when they listened to this Saddamist offer because it is not serious and shows no respect for the will and the feelings of these countries. Saddam Husayn wants to bribe these countries to buy their silence about his crime, after they had all condemned the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait. He wants to tell these countries indirectly that they will suffer from the oil crisis if the blockade against Iraq continues. Therefore, Saddam Husayn is willing to save them from this difficult situation in return for forgetting the issue of Kuwait.

We do not want to repeat that Saddam has never been a man of charity or giving for any Third World country. All these countries know him as a man who helps no friend, assists no neighbor, and contributes nothing to relieve the burden from the shoulders of small and needy developing countries who have been groaning under the heavy burden of debts and soaring oil prices for years. Saddam has never helped any Arab or Muslim state, because Iraqi wealth had been entirely allocated to terrorist organizations, to promoting Saddam's ideas, and to the statues and the festivals which speak in his name and praise his genius.

The difficult circumstance which Iraq experienced gave the impression that the land of the two rivers deserves charity from others and that its oil wealth does not suffice its necessary needs. When he accumulated a great wealth from oil between 1973 and 1980—the golden age for oil, when a barrel of oil cost $40—Saddam did not grant a loan to any state, participated in no development program, nor did he offer to supply oil free of charge to countries which had to borrow at high prices to buy the expensive oil. These developing countries have not, and will not forget that Saddam Husayn was the only Arab leader who refused to employ oil as a weapon in the October 1973 war, when His Majesty King Fahd of Saudi Arabia issued his daring decision not to supply oil to any state which supports Israel in the battle.

This languid Iraqi stand was best evidence that Saddam Husayn was very careful about his oil and very reluctant about parting with it. He feared that his oil revenues would run short, even if granting it would have been for a legitimate liberation battle in which Egypt and Syria were struggling to liberate the lands occupied by Israel in 1967. Saddam categorically refused to use the Iraqi oil in the October battle and he claims now that he is the guardian and protector of the Arab nation, the bearer of the banner of pan-Arabism, and the defender of all Arab interests against all creeds, religions, ethnic sects, and races. The Saudi Arabian Kingdom—which Saddam wrongly accuses of opening its land to foreign forces—was the one who presented the proposal to halt oil sales to any state that supported Israel in the October war.

It is noteworthy that Saudi Arabia accepted, only after strong urging by the Egyptian leadership, to lift the ban on oil sales to the United States. It is strange that Saddam Husayn came to benefit from this battle, in which he refused to take part or even adopt its concept. He reaped great wealth when the oil prices rose over $40 per barrel.

Hence, Saddam Husayn was very careful about his oil. He refused to invest it in an Arab and Muslim battle. Why does he now offer to give it free of charge to Third World countries? Saddam Husayn is addressing an indirect message in which he says that all developing countries will become hostages in the war he is waging against the world. If these countries do not support him and his aggression against Kuwait, they will suffer the worst consequences as a result of the oil shortage. Moreover, the rising oil prices will add to their economic burdens. This attempt on Saddam's part is doomed because it is naive. All Third World countries will refuse to dance to Saddam's tunes. These countries are absolutely not willing to prepare shipping and transport means and defy the international blockade which they had implicitly endorsed when most Third World countries announced their rejection of the Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

If Saddam thinks that he is capable of deceiving the world under the excuse that supplying free-of-charge oil to poor countries is not a profit-seeking action, and hence not subject to the economic blockade laws, this vision only reveals his desperate attempt to come out of the bottleneck in which he has involved Iraq. Saddam's claim about redistributing wealth among the poor was so false and groundless that it quickly faded away, even among the poor. The poor realized by instinct that Saddam wanted to buy their silence over his crime of seizing Kuwait in return for a bunch of cheap offers. Similarly, his offer to give oil free of charge to Third World countries will be met by ridicule and sarcasm, because international politics and the wills of states and peoples cannot be bought by such cheap tricks.

Egypt, Soviet Union Sign Trade Protocol

NC0909174090 Cairo MENA in English 1556 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 9 Sep (MENA)—The meetings on the follow-up of the implementation of the trade protocol between Egypt and the Soviet union ended here today.

It has been agreed on signing the 1990-91 protocol of one billion clearing pounds sterling, that is Egyptian pounds three billion.

Muhsin Shihab, head of the public sector authority for foreign trade and chairman of the Egyptian-Soviet Trade Committee, said the meetings discussed the problems facing the new protocol and the increase of the Soviet imports of the Egyptian equipment and machines so as to cut the deficit in the trade balance.

Libyan Television Official Arrives on Visit

NC1009154890 Cairo MENA in English 1319 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sep 10 (MENA)—Yusuf al-Diri, chairman of Libyan television and radio, arrived here this afternoon on a week-long visit. He is to discuss with officials in the Radio and Television Union means of promoting bilateral relations in the field of information and ways of exchanging expertise between Egypt and Libya.

Saudi Investment To Finance New Enterprises

NC0809080090 Cairo MENA in English 0635 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Cairo, Sept 8 (MENA)—[passage omitted] AL-AHRAM gave second-lead prominence on its front-page to a report on new enterprises to be set up in Egypt and financed by Saudi Arabia up to a cost of 500 million dollars. The paper reported that the enterprises will include seven pharmaceutical plants, 50 small private industrial businesses and modernization of Egypt's aluminium works. [passage omitted]

Libya

People's Assembly Official Receives Iraqi Message

LD1109120890 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1250 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Triploli, 11 Sep (JANA)—The assistant secretary of the General People's Assembly met today in Tripoli with member of the Iraqi National Assembly, Hatim al-'Akidi, who delivered a message from the Iraqi National Assembly to the secretariat of the Libyan General People's Congress.

Country's First Journalists' Union Established

LD1109180290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tripoli, Sep (JANA)—During the last two days the first Journalists' Union in the Great Jamahiriyah was formed within the framework of building the new popular Jamahiriyah.

The general secretariat of this union includes Brothers: Mahmud Ahmad al-Bousayfi as president of the Journalists' Union; 'Umran [name indistinct], Salim al-Hindawi, Mas'ud al-'Alaqi, and Khamis Ridha, as members [all names as received].

Morocco

'Arafat, Delegation Arrive in Rabat

LD1109135190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, accompanied by Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the Fatah Central Committee; Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser to the Palestinian president; and Hakam Bal'awi, Palestinian state ambassador to Tunisia, arrived in Morocco at noon today. He was welcomed at Rabat-Sale airport by Premier Azzedine Laraki. [passage omitted]

Received by King Hassan

LD1109184190 Rabat Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpts] His Majesty King Hassan II this afternoon received in the royal palace in Skhirat Mr. Yasir 'Arafat, president of the state of Palestine, who was accompanied by Mahmud 'Abbas, member of the central committee of the PLO; Hakam Bal' Awi, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Tunisia; Bassam Abu Sharif, adviser of the Palestinian president; and Abu Marwan, ambassador of the state of Palestine in Rabat. [passage omitted]

After the meeting, the monarch bade farewell to Mr. Yasir 'Arafat.

Makes Departure Statement

LD1109224290 Rabat RTM Television Network in Arabic 2030 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpt] [passage omitted] On leaving Morocco this afternoon, Mr. Yasir 'Arafat made a statement in the VIP lounge regarding his visit to Morocco:

[Begin 'Arafat recording] As a matter of fact, it was basically a short but blessed visit. I am always pleased to come and visit my kinsfolk and brothers here in the Kingdom of Morocco, to visit his majesty the king, and to hear from him, as always, what is good for our Arab nation.

Today I had this blessed meeting with my brothers, with his majesty the king, and with his brothers, in which we spoke in detail about all the problems of our Arab nation: the preoccupations of our Arab nation, especially this terrible crisis, the Gulf crisis and its repercussions not only here and there but also its grave repercussions on all the Arab nation, on the Arab destiny, on the future of Arab security, as well as the repercussions on the whole world, because whether we like it or not, our Arab nation is in a strategic location at the heart of the world. We also spoke on the importance of this regarding world peace.

I explained to his majesty the king all the efforts we are making, in detail, and my recent visits to a number of my brother Arab leaders in order to undertake an Arab effort and find an Arab solution. We have to do this at this very moment, especially after the Helsinki conference which stressed the importance of an Arab solution to the Gulf crisis.

Thank God for these blessed steps taken by his majesty the king in order to contain this crisis. Their effects will appear, God willing, in the near future, God willing. We are optimistic about this Arab effort and this blessed effort by his majesty the king. God willing, we will be able, through this effort, to contain this crisis and resolve it within our Arab framework, and within our Arab family, in the interests of the future of our Arab nation and for the future of pan-Arab security as a whole.

I will not go into further detail, but at the same time, I have put his majesty the king in the picture of the events in the occupied land and the repercussions of the Gulf crisis on the Palestinian problem, especially now that when the world speaks about the Gulf crisis, it speaks about the importance of resolving all the problems of the Middle East, foremost of which is the Palestinian issue.

I have thanked his majesty the king on my behalf and on behalf of my brothers, on behalf of the people of the intifadah and of the stone-throwing children in the holy land. God willing, we will pray together, side by side, in the first of the two Qiblah and the third holy place, the liberated Jerusalem, with the help of Almighty God. [end recording] [passage omitted]

Tunisia

Chamber of Deputies Holds Extraordinary Session

Karoui Speaks on Gulf Crisis

LD1109143290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpts] This morning the Chamber of Deputies held an extraordinary session in Le Bardo Palace at the invitation of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali. Prime Minister Hamed Karoui made a speech on this occasion in which he stressed that this extraordinary session, held in conformity with the stipulations of the Constitution, is to consecrate the traditions of continuous consultation between the executive and legislative powers about matters of great concern to national opinion, and to emphasize President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's desire to acquaint the people's deputies with the latest developments in the Gulf situation and the events taking place in this region which are facing the Arab nation with the most serious trial facing its existence, dignity, stability, capacities, and security, and jeopardizes peace in the world. [passage omitted]

He stressed that out of Tunisia's attachment to international legitimacy and its continuous struggle for the consolidation of the moral authority of the United Nations, Tunisia considers itself committed to the Security Council resolutions related to the Gulf crisis. He pointed out that Tunisia has addressed a report to the UN General Secretariat on the measures taken for the implementation of these resolutions. Tunisia has sent messages to many institutions and international organs to inform them about the negative effects, due to the implementation of these resolutions, on the national economy, finance, trade, and cooperation with Kuwait and Iraq.

The prime minister indicated that the government is totally committed to safeguarding the interests of our export industries and our institutions affected by the implementation of the embargo on Iraq.

Mr. Hamed Karoui noted, on the other hand, that out of Tunisia's attachment to respect for human rights, it has announced its rejection of detaining civilians and preventing them from traveling. He added, regarding the same principles and human considerations, that the economic embargo imposed on Iraq by the Security Council does not include medicines and food products, according to the council's resolutions. Furthermore, our tolerant Islamic and Arab morals do not allow us to accept starving a population of 17 million people, with its women, children, and old people. [passage omitted]

Mr. Hamed Karoui said that if the Gulf crisis is an aspect of disrespect for international legitimacy, there are numerous examples in recent history which offer evidence that in dealing with other events when this legitimacy had been trodden upon in the past, the United Nations was only able to take nondecisive measures which were not implemented due to the lack of deterrent measures. The most shining example of this is the problem of the Palestinian people and the rejection of their legitimate right to self-determination, the establishment of their state on their land, the safeguarding of Jerusalem, and the evacuation of the occupied Arab territories and Lebanon, in addition to the nonimplementation of the sanctions decided against the apartheid system in South Africa.

He stated that the Gulf crisis raises the issue of raw materials produced by the Third World countries, because this crisis is closely related to the oil crisis. He pointed out that the recognition by Western officials that their countries' economies can bear a reasonable rise in the price of this product without any major difficulty is proof of the need to revise the conditions of trade exchange between the developing and developed countries, as the current formula has led to a piling up of debts of poor countries and has hampered their development. [passage omitted]

He pointed out that this responsible stand, which is loyal to the higher Arab interest, does not please some Arab sides which have begun exerting pressure, as shown by the campaigns of scepticism and the conspiracies woven into this difficult situation. These practices will not affect us and will not deter us from our attachment to the principles of our policy based on commitment to international legitimacy and safeguarding the Arab national interests. [passage omitted]

Foreign, Economics Ministers Speak

LD1209022790 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 2200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpts] At the invitation of the president of the Republic, an extraordinary session was held yesterday [11 September] at the House of Representatives to discuss the Gulf crisis. [passage omitted]

Foreign Minister Habib Boulares answered the political and diplomatic aspects of the requests for explanation and clarification made by the representatives. He pointed out that Tunisia's position on the Gulf crisis was clear from the start, devoid of any ambiguity, vagueness, or hesitation. It was expressed on many occasions and in public documents open to the scrutiny of all. Governments are also informed about Tunisia's positions through the visits made by personal envoys from several states to Tunisia, or through the visits of the personal envoys of President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to a number of fraternal and friendly states.

He explained that the difficult Gulf crisis, putting two Arab states face to face, was a hard test for pan-Arabism and for the whole world. Tunisia tried to commit itself to clear positions inspired by Tunisian national pledges, or in the context of its membership in the Arab League and the United Nations organization.

The foreign minister added that it was possible for matters to remain in an inter-Arab framework, but the nature of the crisis and of the position of the Gulf region—as well as the nature of the international situation—have imposed a rapid pace on events and made several world states intervene in the situation.

Mr. Boulares then reviewed the development of events, and the Tunisian official dealings with them, noting that the situation became more complicated after the issuance of the Security Council resolutions, given the legally binding character of these resolutions, and because of the endeavors made to prompt states to implement them.

He explained that the firm bases of the Tunisian position were founded on several principles: preserving Arab capabilities; protecting the Arab future; maintaining the unity of Arab ranks; healing rifts; containing the crisis in an Arab context; rejecting foreign military intervention—not from the point of view of chauvinism but because of the dangers inherent in it, considering it a disaster to all the states of the region irrespective of its results; and rejecting the starving of the Iraqi people.

The foreign minister then moved on to the subject of the Arab League. He expressed regret that an opportunist operation should appear under such circumstances, as well as trifling with texts [of the Arab League charter] in order to hasten the transferral of the Arab League from Tunisia to Egypt—a position about which the least that can be said is that it is not fraternal toward Tunisia, which has contributed much to this Arab institution.

He recalled that the decision to announce the transferral of the headquarters of the League from Tunisia in September had been made unanimously last March, while the decision made in Cairo recently reviewed the arrangements made by an ad-hoc committee, and disturbed the agenda that Egypt had taken part in laying down.

He said that the Tunisian Government—that had worked for the respect of the independence of the League and the strengthening of its influence and effect—expresses its concern that such an action would entrench a policy of axes, and would lay the Arab nation open to fragmentation. The Tunisian Government rejects the policy of a fait accompli, and reserves for itself the right to preserve this institution and those working in it from perdition.

The foreign minister further said: Despite this, we still believe that there is room for an Arab solution, and that there exist in the ranks people who stick to peace, who would take the Arab nation out of this impasse in a way that preserves the present and future of the Arabs. He emphasized that, proceeding from this belief, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali had made great efforts and is still working for the advent of peace in the Gulf and in all the regions of the Middle East. The minister made an appeal to all the states believing in right, justice, and peace to support Tunisia's efforts, noting in conclusion that this crisis has proved the unity of Tunisians and their cohesion with the leadership of the new regime.

Mr. Slaheddine Baly [speaker of the Chamber of Deputies] commented on addresses made by the minister of Economy and Finance and the Foreign Ministers. He pointed out the seriousness, the objectivity, the frankness, and the depth of the dialogue between members of the government and members of the Chamber of Deputies, as well as their sincere patriotism, epitomizing harmony between the legislative and the executive. He furthermore asked the prime minister to inform the president of the Republic on the Chamber of Deputies' readiness to go along with the transformation under way, aiming at achieving further impregnability and progress for Tunisia.

Mr. Mohamed Ghannouchi, minister of economy and finance, pointed out, in his replies to deputies' questions on the effects of the Gulf crisis on the Tunisian economy, that the direct financial consequence in 1990 is estimated at 140 million Tunisian dinars, and more than 200 million Tunisian dinars in 1991, asserting that such an estimate is an initial one; it is possible that the coming days will come up with more effects and repercussions, such as inflation, a slowing of economic growth, and disturbance to the trade movement. He pointed out that Tunisia's imports of oil, sulfur, and other oil products from Iraq had been on the increase; their value was about 70 million Tunisian dinars this year. We, on the other hand, export to the Iraqi market a number of commodities, such as textiles, fertilizers, spare parts, and mechanical equipment. The minister observed that owing to the blockade, such activities have ceased; imports have stopped and given rise to a number of problems for some companies which had intended to buy their needs from this market. Export has also ceased, which has resulted in some negative effects on a number of companies which are linked, to different degrees, with the Iraqi market. In addition there is the expected additional burden to the balance of payments. [passage omitted]

As far as technical cooperation in the labor forces is concerned, the minister of economy and finance pointed out that the number of Tunisian workers in both Iraq and Kuwait was about 4500, 2000 of whom were in Kuwait. Given the current situation in the region, a large number of them had to return, under difficult circumstances. Their return will be an additional burden on the labor market and the balance of payments. [passage omitted]

Ministry Views Arab League Transfer to Cairo

LD1109171890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The Foreign Ministry has issued the following statement: In this present situation which requires safeguarding the Arab League as a means of mending the rift and rebuilding confidence and solidarity so as to face up to the dangers surrounding the Arab nation, an emergency session of the council of the League has been held in Cairo in the absence of an important number of member countries, with the aim of imposing a fait accompli in a way which will expose the pan-Arab institution to rift and division.

The Tunisian Government expressed its adherence to Resolution 4983 of the Arab League council issued during its ordinary session in March 1990. This resolution would not have seen the light had Tunisia not been extremely anxious to discard any cause of division, and had it not been ready to make sacrifices for the sake of the unity of the Arab ranks.

Although that resolution was taken unanimously and on the basis of all political and practical considerations, the Cairo meeting has resulted in undermining this agreement on the basis of a limited majority, reconsidering the arrangements made by a specialized committee, and disturbing the agenda regarding the removal of the League, an agenda which was agreed upon by Egypt and the general secretariat and which secures the good progress of work and takes the interests of employees into account.

At this very time, which calls on us to focus on more important and serious matters for the future of joint Arab action and pan-Arab security, and what is more, the fate of the Arab nation, speeding up the removal of the Arab League to Cairo could hamper this body and prevent it from shouldering its responsibility.

The Tunisian Government, which exerted every possible effort to impose the respect of the independence of the League and contributed to consolidating its credibility, radiance, and impact in the world, expresses fear that the resolution of the emergency session in Cairo consecrates a divisive policy which will expose the Arab League to dispersion and division.

While Tunisia rejects the fait accompli and preserves its right to safeguard this institution and its employees from loss, it reiterates anew its attachment to legitimacy and Arab agreement which is essential in any endeavor for the higher Arab interest.

Bahrain

Kuwaiti Deputy Chief of Staff Departs 11 Sep

NC1109133890 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1320 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Manama, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Staff Major General Shaykh Jabir al-Khalid al-Sabah, Kuwaiti deputy chief of staff, and the delegation accompanying him left Manama for Saudi Arabia at noon today, following several days' visit to Bahrain.

During the visit, the Kuwaiti official held talks on the fraternal relations existing between the two countries, as well as on current developments in the Gulf region.

Kuwait

Reports Indicate Intensified Resistance Operations

NC1109192090 Muscat Sultanate of Oman Television Network in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Regarding the latest developments in occupied Kuwait, reports have indicated that the Kuwaiti national resistance is intensifying and that the sound of bomb explosions and automatic weapons is heard daily. The reports add that the Iraqi occupation forces have begun reducing their presence on Kuwaiti streets during the night. Desertion among the Iraqi forces has recently increased.

One of the recently evacuated foreign women said that explosions can be heard every night. Snipers from the resistance movement take up positions on the roofs of high-rise buildings. The resistance movement, which also includes Kuwaiti women and children, use Molotov cocktails to attack Iraqi occupation forces.

Men from the Kuwaiti resistance have also ambushed the vehicles of senior Iraqi officers, attacking them with Molotov cocktails. The woman added that Kuwaiti streets are full of Iraqi vehicles destroyed by these men.

Commander Says Armed Forces Joining Resistance

PM1009131290 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 2

[Mahir 'Abbas report: "Kuwaiti Military Commander Says Armed Forces Preparing for Liberation and Coordinating With Internal Resistance"]

[Text] "Saudi northeastern front"—A prominent Kuwaiti military commander has stated that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces outside Kuwait are currently mustering and making preparations to liberate Kuwait.

Staff Colonel Fadil al-Hazza', one of the Kuwaiti military commanders who withdrew from Kuwait to the Saudi borders on the first day of the invasion, said: We will defend our country, Kuwait, to the last Kuwaiti soldier and we will defend our rights at any price.

He hinted that the Kuwaiti Armed Forces which withdrew from Kuwait have now joined the resistance and are training in preparation for the liberation of their country.

Asked why the Kuwaiti Armed Forces did not resist the invasion, he strongly defended the Kuwaiti Armed Forces, saying: The 2 August Iraqi invasion took us by surprise because we were informed of a guarantee that the Iraqis would not attack us.

He said the Iraqi forces entered Kuwait in ordinary buses and cars. We tried to resist, he said, with the weapons we had, and there was fierce resistance until we ran out of ammunition, and we did not even have enough ammunition to cover our retreat.

He added: Militarily speaking, and because of Iraqi deception, time was needed to redeploy armored units in defensive positions. So the forces which did resist the Iraqi invasion were no match for the great size of the invading forces. We decided to retreat to spare lives of Kuwaiti civilians and residents. We withdrew to positions near the Saudi borders before withdrawing into Saudi Arabia later on.

The Kuwaiti commander, who was talking to over 120 reporters somewhere on the Saudi front no more than 60 km from the border with his country, said that internal resistance was increasing every day and that signs of coordination between the resistance and the Kuwaiti military units inside to ensure our return to our homeland and the invaders' expulsion will soon appear.

Resistance Publications Cited on Situation

PM1109140390 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Kuwaiti Awareness Against Saddam's Tanks"-formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] Kuwait, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—The mass movement in Kuwait has succeeded in making its own instruments of struggle and managed—despite the Saddam terror—to create its own media. Following is a brief list of some heroic publications:

AL-SUMUD AL-SHA'BI [POPULAR STEADFASTNESS]: mouthpiece of the Kuwaiti Popular Resistance Movement "Hamak" [harakat al-muqawamah al-sha'biyah al-kuwaytiyah].

In its editorial AL-SUMUD AL-SHA'BI ridiculed Saddam's agents represented in the imaginary provisional government. The paper also covered the Kuwaiti resistance movement's heroic activities and emphasized the need to continue civil disobedience. The paper included various sections and launched appeals to join the popular committees and strengthen their role.

MUS [SECRET NATIONAL RESISTANCE]: Published by the Secret National Resistance [al-Muqawamah al-Wataniyah al-Sirriyah].

In its handwritten bulletin MUS ridiculed in a brilliant cartoon the ignorant aggression launched as a result of greed. On its front page MUS highlighted appeals to Arab diplomats, calling on them to convey to their peoples the pictures of Saddam's bloody terror seen everywhere. It also appealed to doctors, pharmacists, and technicians to inform residents in their areas of their telephone numbers in order to help in emergencies. MUS also explained how people can protect themselves against chemical weapons, providing additional guidelines. MUS did not forget to report the history of the Iraqi regime's false claims and actions. It quoted an Iraqi soldier as saying: "We thought we were going to liberate occupied Palestine, but we were surprised to find ourselves invading Kuwait."

SARKHAH [outcry]: In its editorial of issue No. 2 SARKHAH stressed the need for cautiousness when dealing with the information transmitted by the fascist regime's organs, in order not to help the invaders to achieve their base objectives, which they have not been able to achieve by bombs, guns, and all means of destruction. The paper allocated one section to "Home News," in which it cited the occupiers' repression against the media and media men when they launched their brutal invasion. It also cited the occupiers' inhuman behavior toward citizens in some areas. The paper reported popular resistance news and the aggressive forces' defeat in the face of resistance steadfastness. The paper also cited the Kuwait university academic staff's condemnation of the Iraqi occupation.

National Airlines To Relocate to Cairo

NC0109211790 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] KUNA has reported that the Kuwaiti national airline will set up headquarters in Cairo. KUNA cited the director of the Kuwait Airways Corporation as saying that his company will relocate to Cairo later this month. The director said that the company is in touch with several international airlines to rent 18 Kuwaiti Airlines planes that were outside Kuwait at the time of the Iraqi invasion. He added that negotiations are taking place, through diplomatic channels and insurance companies, to regain 15 Kuwaiti Airlines planes of various types that were seized by the Iraqi authorities during the invasion.

Kuwaitis Abroad To Receive Financial Assistance

PM1009114690 London AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI in Arabic 6 Sep 90 p 2

[Unattributed report: "Relief Committee Formed To Look After Kuwaitis Abroad"—formerly Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI]

[Text] London, AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI—The Kuwaiti Council of Ministers has issued a decision concerning the approved rules and regulations for paying living and housing allowances to Kuwaiti citizens abroad.

The Council of Ministers decided to form a living and housing committee to look after Kuwaiti citizens abroad and to supervise and follow up the implementation of these decisions.

Jabir 'Abdallah al-Jabir, chairman of the living and housing committee, has issued a circular to Kuwaiti Embassies abroad to implement the Kuwaiti Council of Ministers' decision.

The Council of Ministers' decision on rules and regulations concerning the living allownce is as folows:

In accordance with the esteemed Council of Ministers's decison issued on Friday 31 August 1990 to draw up rules and regulations for paying living and housing allownaces to Kuwaiti citizens abroad, the following rules have been agreed on:

First, the living allowance:

1. Head of family (husband, wife, or eldest son): 1,200 riyals a month.
2. Family members (21 years and above): 600 riyals a month.
3. Family members (under 21 years): 300 riyals a month.

Second: The housing allowance:

1. Families consisting of five individuals or less: 1,500 a month.
2. Families consisting of more than five individuals: 3,000 riyals a month.

This is with the housing allowances paid for three months in advance.

Third, a sum of 5,000 riyals is to be paid once only to every head of family to help toward furnishing.

Fourth, individuals not responsible for families:

A lump sum of 1,200 riyals, including living and housing, to be paid to each of them, though with the first payment they should receive an additional sum of 1,000 riyals to enable them to purchase essentials.

Fifth, families of non-Kuwaiti military personnel are to be treated as Kuwaitis.

Sixth, all military personnel on the front or special missions are to receive 1,200 riyals a month.

Seventh, Kuwaiti Embassies in the Gulf Cooperation Council [GCC] states are to coordinate with government authorities in each state to take over responsibility for providing living and housing allowances for Kuwaitis.

Each family or citizen is to be given a week to move from present to new accommodation. Priority should be given to those at present using schools, sports centers, or other government facilities.

Eighth, the esteemed Council of Ministers has decided to form a Living and Housing Committee to supervise and follow up these decisions. It comprises the following:

1. The social affairs and labor minister, chairman.
2. The finance minister, member.
3. The public works minister, member.
4. The minister of state for housing affairs, member.

Ninth, these decisions are to be implemented as of the date of issue.

Tenth, for inquires contact the following telephone number: 0096-2-7542133/5.

Issued 1 September 1990.

Note: Payments are in riyals in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the equivalent in the other GCC states.

Reportage on Crown Prince Trip to Europe

WA1109131090

For reportage on the visit by Crown Prince Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah and Foreign Minister Sabah al-Ahmad al-Sabah to Italy and France, please see the respective sections of the 10 September West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Amir Denounces 'Barbaric' Iraqi Moves

LD1109222590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Message by Kuwaiti Amir Jabir al-'Ahmad al-Sabah to the International Islamic Conference in Mecca, read by Yusif al-Hajji on 11 September—recorded]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the compassionate the merciful. Praise be to God, the lord of the two worlds. [passage omitted] I would like to thank the Islamic World League for calling this conference to deal with the problems of the Arabian Gulf region and the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq. [passage omitted]

Undoubtedly, you are aware of the blatant and unjust aggression to which Kuwait was subjected by a neighboring Muslim country, Iraq, which did not respect the rights of neighborliness nor the honor of Islam in the month of al-Muharram. [passage omitted] What took place, brothers, was a barbaric armed raid on the state of Kuwait, and was not in any way a dispute between two countries over a piece of land. Brothers, ulemas of the Islamic nation, this was the fate of Kuwait, which has always aspired for constructive cooperation with Islamic countries; it was the first to demand the establishment of an Islamic court of justice to resolve the disputes that may arise between Islamic countries. [passage omitted]

Shaykh Sa'ad Interviewed by KUNA in Paris

LD1009065190 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0606 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Paris, 9 Sep (SPA)—His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, Kuwaiti heir apparent and prime minister, stressed that the presence of Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces in the region is a response to confront the probable Iraqi aggression against states of the region, to thwart this aggression from Iraq, and to implement the sanctions imposed by the international community against Iraq.

In an interview conducted with him by KUNA, His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah al-Sabah, who is currently visiting Paris, warned against the repercussions of the current policy pursued by the Iraqi regime.

He accused this regime of attempting to split the two superpowers in accordance with his aims and ambitions.

He indicated that the president of the Iraqi regime aims to implicate his people in a destructive war against the whole world.

The Kuwaiti heir apparent refuted Iraqi allegations stating that Kuwait used to be part of Iraq. He stressed that Saddam Husayn is lying to the whole world and about history, and that all historians and history books confirm that Kuwait has never been a part of Iraq.

He ridiculed attempts by the Iraqi regime to use religion in order to achieve its aims and justify its occupation of Kuwait. He said: "It is that regime that has split the ranks of the Islamic nation."

Answering a question on accusations leveled by the president of the Iraqi regime that stated that Kuwait conspired against Iraq, His Highness Shaykh Sa'ad al-'Abdallah said: "The government of Kuwait that is being accused these days is the one that provided huge financial backing to Iraq in its hardship. It enabled Iraq to stand on its two feet when it was on the verge of collapse."

The Kuwaiti heir apparent praised the stance of the Soviet Union and the United States in standing by right, justice, and legitimacy in Kuwait, and he saluted their condemnation of the Iraqi invasion and their demand for the withdrawal of Iraq from Kuwait.

Commentaries on Gulf Crisis Continue

Libyan Actions Examined

PM0609153190 Cairo AL-ANBA' in Arabic 3 Sep 90 p1

[Editorial: "Libyan Initiative in the Balance"—formerly Kuwait AL-ANBA']

[Excerpts] Ever since the barbaric invasion of our country and Saddam Husayn's occupation of our homeland and destruction of our institutions and national utilities we have been watching like hawks everthing that comes out of the Arab world, especially expressions of attitudes, statements, and concepts. The Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah has never been far from our watchful eye because it has never been far from our hearts, especially in the recent period which witnessed genuine growth in relations between Tripoli and Kuwait. We have always sensed the brother Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's understanding of the problems of the Arab world and his tireless endeavors to eliminate obstacles standing in the way of Arab solidarity. We have understood his pan-Arab motives in pursuing Arab unity in fulfillment of the people's hopes and aspirations. When a gap emerged between us because of our support for Iraq in the war it launched against neighbor Iran, while Libya stuck to its position condemning Saddam Husayn's policy and calling for balanced relations with Iran lest we lose Tehran as an Islamic power and as a strategic depth in our fateful battle with Israel, we say that when that gap occurred Kuwait and Libya still maintained deep mutual understanding based on respect for the choices people make. [passage omitted]

Libya has announced its peace initiative, reaffirming rejection of the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the legitimacy of the honorable al-Sabah rule of the country in accordance solely with the will and decision of the Kuwaiti people. Logically, anything based on falsehood must be false. Therefore, the call for giving the invaders any gains for their invasion is morally rejected and the civilized world has rejected it. If it was permissible to reward invaders for their crimes, then in the forties Libya would have been a possible Arab prize offered by the Arabs and the world to the Italian dictator. [passage omitted]

The Libyan initiative, which derived the best facts from what the brother leader had said, has defined fraternal Libya's position rejecting and condemning the invasion and its position regarding the political legitimacy of the State of Kuwait. We would have liked the Libyan line to continue to be entirely constructive, so that everything in it would be in agreement and harmony with the basic principles and nobody would believe that what is required is just the withdrawal of the occupation forces even if it means incomplete sovereignty for our people. [passage omitted]

Our Kuwaiti Arab people, who learned with and from the revolutionaries to reject slavery, were yesterday shocked by the Libyan initiative. We would have understood its motives if it had come from a cowardly, opportunist regime or from a conspirator who coveted our wealth, but to be told that Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi's Libya is asking us, the victims of occupation, invasion, terrorism, cruelty, and usurpation of will, to agree, even unwillingly, to the call that we forfeit Kuwait's neck, its dignity, sovereignty, and freedom by installments instead of in one go, is much too much and we reject it utterly.

There is still time to amend the Libyan initiative in harmony with the international charters and with the message sent by Colonel al-Qadhdhafi to the UN secretary general on 25 August 1990. We look forward to such amendment, because we know that the initiative comes from a man who is not covetous and who is not the opportunist of our contemporary Arab history.

Panamanian Ship First To Leave Since 2 Aug

NC0509120590 Paris AFP in English 1154 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] Dubai, United Arab Emirates, Sept 5 (AFP)—A Panamanian cargo ship carrying 750 Indian nationals left Iraqi-occupied Kuwait early Wednesday and was heading for Dubai, shipping sources said here.

The vessel, the Safeer, was due here Thursday night, when the passengers—who were working in Kuwait at the time of the Iraqi invasion August 2—will be flown home aboard an Air India flight, they added.

It was the first departure of a ship from Kuwait since the invasion, when Iraqi forces took control of Kuwaiti ports and impounded foreign vessels and tankers.

Shipping sources said three Indian vessels, including the Akbar and the Tipu Sultan, were to set sail for Kuwait "in the next few days" to begin repatriating the more than 100,000 Indian nationals stranded there.

Prior to the invasion some 200,000 Indians had been working in Iraq and Kuwait, thousands of whom have fled Baghdad overland and are now camped along the Iraqi-Jordanian border.

Oman

Italian Envoy Arrives With Cossiga Message

NC1109171690 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1217 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Salalah, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Italian Deputy Foreign Minister Claudio Lenoci and the delegation accompanying him arrived today on an official visit to the Sultanate of Oman.

According to the OMANI NEWS AGENCY, the Italian official is carrying a verbal message to His Majesty Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id from the Italian president.

Meets With Qabus

NC1109192490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1735 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Salalah, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Sultan Qabus Bin-Sa'id of Oman today received a message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti. Italian Foreign Under Secretary Claudio Lenoci conveyed the message to Sultan Qabus during a meeting here today. The meeting was attended by Yusuf Bin-'Alawi Bin-'Abdallah, minister of state for foreign affairs; [name indistinct], head of Europe's Department in the Foreign Ministry; and members of the delegation accompanying the Italian envoy.

Official on Arab League Transfer, Venice Meeting

NC1109192290 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Muscat, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Haytham Bin-Tariq Bin-Taymur, Omani foreign under secretary for political affairs, returned here today from Cairo after having chaired his country's delegation to the Arab League Council's emergency session that concluded there yesterday.

The OMANI NEWS AGENCY quoted the Omani official as saying that the purpose of the emergency session was to declare the transfer of the Arab League headquarters from Tunis to Cairo at the beginning of next month. He noted that the transfer will take place toward the end of the same month.

Asked on the EC's invitation to the Arab countries for a joint meeting in Venice, he said the reaction of the Arab states toward this invitation depends on the topics on the agenda of this meeting. He said the Arab position is clear, both regarding the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait and the Palestinian issue. He noted that there are prior consultations and agreements in this respect.

In response to a question on a peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis, the Omani official said all the current endeavors by all the world countries seek a peaceful solution to the crisis, but time is not on our side and therefore, if peaceful solutions are available then it is better to work as fast as possible toward that end, and there must be a response from Iraq to these efforts.

Qatar

Foreign Ministry on Support for Palestinians

NC1009205290 Cairo MENA in English 2021 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, Sept 10 (MENA)—The State of Qatar underlined its firm stances and continued support of the Palestinian issue and the Palestinian Arab people, who are waging the most honourable battles against the Zionist aggression.

A statement issued by the Qatari Foreign Ministry and distributed in Cairo tonight, said Qatar is still ensuring an honourable and secure life for Arab brothers, especially Palestinians.

Amir Receives Message From Italian Official

NC1109202490 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text) Doha, 11 Sep (WAKH)—His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Bin-Hamad Al Thani, amir of the State of Qatar, has received a written message from Italian Prime Minister Giulio Andreotti, whose country currently chairs the EC. Italian Foreign Under Secretary Claudio Lenoci delivered the message to the amir during a meeting here today that was attended by His Highness Shaykh Hamad Bin-Khalifah Al Thani, Qatari heir apparent and defense minister.

According to the QATARI NEWS AGENCY, the message concerns Italy and the EC's positions regarding the current crisis in the Gulf and ways to end it as well as promoting the ties of friendship and cooperation between Italy and the State of Qatar.

Envoy Delivers Al-Qadhdhafi Message to Amir

NC1109171390 Manama WAKH in Arabic 1154 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Doha, 11 Sep (WAKH)—Qatari Amir His Highness Shaykh Khalifah Ibn-Hamad Al Thani has received an oral message from Libyan Leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi. The message was delivered by Colonel Mustafa al-Kharrubi, member of the Libyan Revolution Command Council and inspector general of the armed forces, during a meeting with his highness before noon today. [passage omitted]

The message reportedly deals with current developments in the Gulf region and Libya's vision of a settlement of the crisis, as well as bilateral relations. [passage omitted]

Saudi Arabia

Fahd Orders $5 Million for Jordan Refugees

LD1109231190 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] As a contribution from the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia to alleviate the plight of refugees, who include Bangladeshi citizens and citizens from a number of Islamic countries, from Kuwait and Iraq who are now in Jordan, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz Al Sa'ud—may God protect him—the custodian of the two holy mosques, has ordered the authorities concerned to give $5 million for this purpose; international authorities concerned have been informed on this matter.

Prince Bandar Denies Differences With Command

LD0709193690 Rabat MAP in French 1600 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 7 Sep (MAP)—Prince Bandar Bin Sultan Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, Saudi ambassador to Washington, praised Morocco for the Kingdom's position on the Gulf crisis. In a statement to MAP on Thursday in Jeddah, Prince Bandar expressed the esteem of the Saudi people, government, and leaders to "the noble and courageous stand taken by King Hassan II as well as the noble position of the Moroccan people vis-a-vis their brothers in Kuwait and Saudi Arabia."

Prince Bandar made this statement after a meeting between King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz, custodian of the two holy mosques and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker. He added that his country wants "an Arab solution" to the Gulf crisis. He said it is up to those who request an Arab solution to take a stand against Saddam Husayn for his refusal to accept Arab initiatives but not against Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"It is regrettable that the Arab media do not stress the fact that it is President Saddam Husayn who refuses these solutions" he said, adding that the Arab League constitutes an appropriate framework for an Arab solution. It is the duty of these partisans to conform to this framework and to take part in meetings that are held at this level."

He denied that his country has any intention of participating in or getting involved in operations against Iraq. He also denied "rumors" of differences between Saudi Arabia and the United States concerning the commander of the forces deployed in the Kingdom. "This issue has been magnified (...). There is no problem on this subject," he said. Prince Bandar said he wants to see the Bush-Gorbachev meeting yielding results that will further strengthen the UN resolutions which demand Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait.

Oil Minister Comments on Iraqi 'Free Oil' Offer

LD1109212690 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In a statement to SPA [SAUDI PRESS AGENCY] today, Tuesday, the minister of petroleum and mineral resources, Hisham Muhi al-Din Nazir, said that Iraq's announcement of its readiness to give free oil to developing countries, in solidarity with them because they are currently suffering from rising prices, is not in line with Iraq's previous stances. He added that as a result of the visit to the Kingdom by Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy, Sa'dun Hammadi, and the flareup of the oil crisis on 1 July, and as a result of the custodian of the two holy mosques's personal intervention with Iraq and the Arabian Gulf oil-producing countries, a meeting was held in Jeddah on 10 July, during which the Gulf oil ministers, including Iraq, laid down the bases for OPEC's march in the coming years and the gradual raising of prices and production simultaneously. However, an authorized spokesman in Iraq announced that very night that Iraq wished to raise prices to $25 [per barrel] as an initial step, after which the price of oil would rise as a subsequent step. At the time it did not pay any attention to the harm that might be caused by developing and industrial countries equally as a result of such a price level. That was its declared position yesterday. How can we now believe his false initiative of distributing free petrol to developing countries?

Minister Nazir said that if it were not for the moderate OPEC member-countries' opposition to that unrestrained rise in prices—they insisted at the July conference in Geneva that the price ceiling should be $21 per barrel—the whole world, and not just the developing countries, would have suffered an economic catastrophe, the first victims of which would have been the oil-producing countries themselves.

Minister Nazir added that as a result of the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, prices have indeed risen to over $30 per barrel for some types of oil. When moderate countries sought to convene an OPEC meeting at the end of August to increase production to compensate for the deficit that resulted from the stoppage of Iraqi and Kuwaiti exports and to prevent an unrestrained rise in prices out of kindness to developing countries, as they requested, Iraq was the first to oppose the convening of a meeting. Iraq still refuses to recognize the meeting, its legitimacy, or its resolutions—and thus opposes 10 OPEC countries.

Minister Nazir said that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia hopes that the petroleum market will return to normal and that stability will return to the market and prices. He stressed that the best and shortest way to return to normal conditions is Iraq's withdrawal from Kuwait and the return of Kuwait's legitimate authority, this being the best solution for the return of stability to prices and following peaceful means for resolving conflicts.

Foreign Minister Meets Press on Gulf Crisis

LD1009122990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1025 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 10 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, indicated that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia is one of the countries that has been contributing the most toward a political solution to the differences between Kuwait and Iraq before and after the treacherous Iraqi invasion of the state of Kuwait.

His highness told a meeting with an Algerian media delegation in Jeddah yesterday that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia stood, in all faith, by Iraq during its dark period. It supported it with all means and capabilities. He said Iraq cannot deny this firm and continuous stand by the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia

However, his royal highness the foreign minister stressed that Saudi Arabia has been betrayed by Iraq. He said: "Betrayal is not an Arab virtue."

His royal highness emphasized that this betrayal was not only directed against the government of Saudi Arabia but also against the Saudi people, who found themselves threatened by forces it had the honor to stand by when these forces were subjected to an impossible hardship that lasted a few long years.

Regarding diplomatic solutions, His royal highness the foreign minister indicated that to find a diplomatic solution is the demand of the masses before it is a diplomatic or political demand.

His royal highness said: "The state that is currently threatened is not Iraq but Kuwait, as long as the Iraqis remain in Kuwait and Kuwaiti citizens are intimidated and pressured inside the Kuwaiti territories".

Hig royal highness wondered: "How can one visualize a political or diplomatic solution?"

He went on to say: "There is the basic demand: the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from Kuwait and the restoration of legitimacy. This is a pan-Arab demand, as well as an international one."

His Royal Highness Sa'ud al-Faysal added: "I do not understand why the Iraqi leadership is unable, and this is an Arab and international consensus, to say: 'I will withdraw from Kuwait and leave Kuwait to the Kuwaitis.' Life would return to normal, and we would solve our problems within the Arab arena. This is what we hope will happen so that Iraq will return to its position instead of it being the one that threatens its neigbors."

Answering a question on the fraternal Arab and Islamic forces and the friendly forces and whether their arrival was meant for defending the Kingdom or liberating Kuwait from the Iraqi regime, his highness began by explaining the links and conventions that existed between the Kingdom and Iraq.

His highness said: "Iraq had affirmed to us that it did not intend to undertake a military action, that it shunned the use of force, and that Arab matters should be resolved peacefuly and through negotiation. But we were surprised by Iraq using force and resorting to violence. Then events occured in Kuwait in the form of aggressive methods and violation of sanctities. No Arab government can ignore its responsibilities toward the individuals of its people and its citizens and say after what happened in Kuwait: I accept pledges."

His highness the foreign minister further said: "Naturally, we heard after Iraq's invasion of the state of Kuwati, Iraqi assurances that they would not invade the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and that they had no ambitions. This is the same excuse used before they invaded Kuwait. This led to great doubt, for how can an official or a government take such assurances for granted when we're monitoring Iraqi military movements and Iraqi military orders to move Iraqi forces to the Iraqi-Saudi borders?" His highness then wondered: "Is 160,000 soldiers inside Kuwait, 850 of the most modern tanks in southern Kuwait, 300,000 troops in the second line in Kuwait, and the calling of Iraqi reserves to the point where Iraqi military forces reached one million soldiers just a confirmation of Iraqi objectives in Kuwait? If all these forces enter Kuwait, then there will be no one in Kuwait except Iraqi forces".

The foreign minister then asked: "What sort of guarantees can a man give when he makes pledges and then reneges on them? If there was a genuine desire on Iraq's part to affirm that it has no desire to threaten security in the region, then there is a direct means that Iraq can take: withdraw from Kuwait."

His royal highness the foreign minister stressed that the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia found itself facing its responsibilities. It is called on to protect its citizens in the fact of this real invasion. He said: "The presence of such considerable quantities of arms, ammunition equipment, and persons from Iraq on the Saudi borders is not an assumption, but is a reality that we witness on our borders."

He added: "As a result of this, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia enlisted the help of Arab, Islamic, and friendly forces to bolster the Kingdom's defensive capabilities and thwart any probable aggression."

He said that: "The Kingdom does not want to create problems for anyone. It is committed to the unity of the Arabs and to Arab solidarity. It is also committed to that its solidary relations with Iraq are restored. However, and under no circumstances would it accept that Iraq threatens the security of its citizens or violate the sacredness of this country."

Answering a question, he said: "I do not believe the situation is desperate, or that it cannot be solved, but to recognize what is right is a virtue."

He said Iraq has nothing to fear if it recognizes what is right; this will not diminish its position in the Arab arena I believe the opposite would be right."

He continued, saying: "If Iraq came to us and said: 'Arab brothers, this is what has happened and this is the reality. I will withdraw now and I would like a solution found through you.' Every Arab would open his heart for every Iraqi as well as the sovereignty of Iraq."

Prince al-Sa'ud al-Faysal stressed the dignity and pride of Iraq should not be at the expense of Arab peoples.

As for the multinational force stationed in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, HRH stressed this is a clear issue. He recalled the speech of the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, in which he called for the presence of these forces in accordance wit Article 51 of the UN Charter. He said that: "These forces have come to defend the Kingdom following its request.

They will remain here until the Kingdom asks them to leave its territories and they will leave as soon as the danger is removed."

His excellency the foreign minister added: "This is a policy to which the kingdom and all the states that contributed to the international forces are committed."

Concerning the Palestinian issue, his highness stressed the Kingdom's policy in this respect is clear. He emphasized the belief of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia in this respect that the Palestinian people must return to its lands and recover its full, undiminished rights.

Regarding the Kingdom's relations with Iran, his highness said: "We hope relations between the Kingdom and all the peoples of the world, especially the Islamic states, will be good, normal relations."

On the Iraqi foreign minister's visit to Tehran, his highness the foreign minister said that he does not know the objective of this visit. He, however, expressed the hope that the visit will lead to Iraq realizing there exists an international consensus that the Security Council resolutions must be implemented.

Pakistani Oil Minister Holds News Conference

LD1109083590 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 0130 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Jeddah, 10 Sep (SPA)—Pakistani minister of petroleum and natural resources, retired General Malik Abdul Majid, praised the historical relations between the Kingdom and Pakistan and the results of his visit to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

At a press conference he held tonight in Jeddah, he said: "I have conveyed to the custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin-'Abd-al-'Aziz, the stance of the Pakistani government toward the current Arabian Gulf crisis, namely Pakistan stands alongside the government and people of the Kingdom in this crisis." [passage omitted]

In reply to a question on sending more Pakistani forces to the Kingdom, the Pakistani petroleum minister affirmed his country's firm stance on this, saying: "Our commitment remains the same. We have sent a military force. If the situation requires the dispatch of more forces, we will do so".

He described his meeting with Hisham Nazir, minister of petroleum and mineral resources, as fruitful.

Concerning the petroleum shortage and the rise in oil prices experienced by Pakistan, he said: "As a result of the invasion of Kuwait we were deprived of 50 percent of the petroleum products we import from abroad."

He explained that Pakistan's efforts are centered on restoring the disrupted petroleum supplies from other countries.

In reply to a question, the Pakistani minister said: "We are returning with a positive and very good response". [passage omitted]

He stressed that Pakistani citizens in Kuwait received rough treatment from the Iraqi forces, especially those who opposed the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. [passage omitted]

Islamic League Chief Delivers Message to Soldiers

LD0709195590 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Shaykh 'Abd al-'Aziz bin 'Abdullah Bin Baz, chairman of the Islamic World League Organization in Mecca and chairman of the department of scientific research, fatwa, and Islamic call in Saudi Arabia, addressed a message to those deployed at the borders to prevent Iraqi aggression. The message said, among other things:

You at the border, I advise you to fear God and remember Him as much as possible; be patient, persevere, and be sincere in confronting any aggression from the State of Iraq.

I also advise you to agree together and not to disagree on obeying God and his messenger and on standing firm in battle. [passage omitted]

I also advise you to be sincere in battle and not to escape from the march. [passage omitted]

Cabinet Discusses Female Military Service

LD0309193490 Riyadh Television Service in Arabic 1830 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Excerpts] The custodian of the two holy mosques, King Fahd Bin 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Sa'ud, chaired a cabinet session this afternoon, Monday, 3 September 1990, at Al-Salam Palace in Jeddah. After the meeting, His Excellency the Minister of Information Ali al-Sha'ir, made a statement to SPA in which he said:

At the start of today's session, the custodian of the two holy mosques reviewed with the cabinet some of the matters concerning the present crisis in the Arab Gulf region. In this respect, the king briefed the cabinet on the various contacts and meetings which he held with his brother leaders of the Arab states in the context of the permanent consultations on current events. He emphasized the clear and sincere stance of the Kingdon of Saudi Arabia toward the painful events being witnessed by the Arab homeland in the light of the current regrettable circumstances. [passage omitted]

Concluding his statement, Minister al-Sha'ir said the the custodian of the two holy mosques today issued instructions to the relevant authorities to accept Saudi female volunteers for national service in the spheres of nursing and humanitarian and medical services, while totally adhering to Islamic principles and general social morals. The Ministry of Health will later provide details on everything concerning the procedures according to which female volunteers can go to the centers for training in the above spheres.

Foreign Minister Receives UK's Kaufman

LD0909140490 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1320 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Jeddah, 9 Sep (SPA)—His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, foreign minister, received this morning at his office in Jeddah Mr. Gerald Kaufman, British Member of Parliament and shadow foreign secretary, who is currently visiting Saudi Arabia.

During the meeting they discussed the current situation in the Gulf region after the Iraqi invasion of fraternal Kuwait.

The meeting was attended by the head of the Western Department at the Foreign Ministry, Ambassador Nizar Ubayd Madani, and the British ambassador to Saudi Arabia, Mr. Alan Munro.

Foreign Minister Meets With Somali Counterpart

LD0609163990 Riyadh SPA in Arabic 1610 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Excerpt] His Royal Highness Prince Sa'ud al-Faysal, minister of foreign affairs, received this afternoon at the conference palace in Jeddah Mohamed Ali Hamid, the minister of foreign affairs for Somalia.

During the meeting, the two ministers reviewed bilateral relations and matters of common interest. [passage omitted]

United Arab Emirates

Finnish Envoy to Kuwait Presents Credentials

LD0809144590 Helsinki Domestic Service in Finnish 1300 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] Tero Lehtovaara, who formally is still Finland's ambassador to Kuwait, presented his credentials today to Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al-Nuhayyan, president of the United Arab Emirates. Lehtovaara will stay in the United Arab Emirates at least until the end of September, it is stated by the Foreign Ministry. Ambassador Lehtovaara was on holiday in Finland at the start of the Persian Gulf crisis, and he did not have time to return to Kuwait before the Iraqi troops closed the border. The Foreign Ministry stresses that the Kuwaiti Embassy has not been closed, even though the ambassador is working elsewhere.

It was reported that also Sweden and Norway are considering vacating their embassies today, although the embassies will not be formally closed. The Swiss Foreign Ministry, on the other hand, decided to ask its diplomats to stay in Kuwait. Switzerland is thus following the example of Austria and the EC countries.

260 Indians Leave Dubayy for Bombay 7 Sep

NC0709123490 Paris AFP in English 1210 GMT 7 Sep 90

[Text] Dubayy, United Arab Emirates, Sept 7 (AFP)—Two hundred and sixty Indians trapped in Kuwait since the Iraqi invasion of August 2 left here Friday for Bombay aboard an Air India Airbus, aviation sources said. Two other Air India planes were to repatriate hundreds of Indians who arrived in Dubayy Friday on the cargo ship Safeer which left the Kuwaiti port of al-Shuwaykh Tuesday afternoon with 725 Indians—including 265 women and children—aboard. The Safeer, a Panamanian-registered ship, was the first vessel to leave a Kuwaiti port since the August 8 annexation of the country by Iraq.

Shipping sources in Dubayy said three Indian ships were expected to make for Kuwait "in the next few days" to begin repatriating more than 100,000 Indian citizens still stranded in Kuwait.

Yemen

Salih Receives Soviet Military Delegation 10 Sep

JN1109175590 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, today received a Soviet military delegation led by [name indistinct], deputy head of the Defense Ministry department, now visiting our country.

The delegation conveyed the greetings of the Soviet military command on the reunification of Yemen and the establishment of the Republic of Yemen. Current military cooperation between our country and the friendly USSR was discussed. The meeting was attended by Staff Brigadier General Haytham Qasim Tahir, minister of defense; Staff Brigadier General 'Abdallah Hasan al-Bashiri, chief of the general staff; and the Soviet ambassador in Sanaa.

DPRK Minister Arrives To 'Promote Relations'

JN1109175790 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] DPRK Vice Foreign Minister Pak Ui-chun arrived in Sanaa today on a visit to our country lasting several days. In a statement to SABA', the DPRK official said that his visit to our country is designed to congratulate our people on reunification and to hold talks with Yemeni Foreign Ministry officials to promote relations between the two friendly countries.

The DPRK official also pointed out that the visit epitomizes the profound friendship between the two countries. He was received by Ahmad Dayfallah, Foreign Ministry Under Secretary for political affairs, a Foreign Ministry representative, and the DPRK ambassador in Sanaa.

Presidential Council Discusses Hurd Visit

JN0609072390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 5 Sep 90

[Text] The Presidential Council met today under the chairmanship of Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Council, [words indistinct] and issues in the national arena and the latest developments in the region.

The Council gave attention to the effects of the economic and financial situation on our country as a result of the Gulf crisis. It entrusted the government with the task of taking all measures and following up the issue with the Security Council and the United Nations so as to receive the appropriate compensation to relieve some of the burden of these effects on our national economy.

The Council also considered the results of British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd's visit to our country and his meeting with the brother the Presidential Council chairman.

The Council approved a number of appointments at the Ministry of Defense.

President Regrets 'Change' in French Position

*JN0509083390 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
2000 GMT 4 Sep 90*

[Text] Brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, has expressed hope that Yemen would be allowed the opportunity to carry out its role in the attempts to achieve peace in the Gulf and to resolve problems peacefully, rather than by force of arms. This came in a news conference with French and Italian television teams, the U.S. NBC network, and representatives of the French, German, and Swiss press.

Replying to a question on the effect of the Gulf crisis on our country's economy, the brother president explained that no doubt the national economy will be affected by the current events in the Peninsula and the Gulf, especially since we have a large [word indistinct] in the Gulf. Indeed, we will be affected by the course of events, just like others in the Arab homeland. The interests of other countries will probably be affected too.

The brother president referred to the unfair campaign by Western media against Yemen. He said: We did not expect such an unfair Western media campaign against our country.

The brother president said: We wanted an opportunity for the Arab group or Arab states to proceed with their efforts to contain this crisis within the Arab fold. However, we deeply regret that all UN resolutions were made hastily and we were not allowed the opportunity. Yemen has amicable and excellent relations with all the Gulf states and Iraq. Yet, it was not given a chance. We hoped that it would be given the opportunity to play its role in establishing peace in the region and resolving the problems peacefully, not by force of arms.

In his statement, the brother president said that our country has nothing to export to Iraq. Yemen is a developing country that depends, for the most part, on importing most materials. Thus, we cannot provide aid to Iraq under these circumstances.

The brother president stressed that contacts are underway between our country and Iraq in an attempt to find peace and spare the region war and destruction.

With regard to French policy as conveyed by President Francois Mitterand's envoy, the chairman of the Presidential Council said: French policy is acceptable to a large extent, yet it seems that there has been a change in the French position following the return of the envoy from Sanaa. A change in the French position has taken place. Before the arrival of the French envoy, the French position was more reasonable and was concerned with peace and resolving issues peacefully. There seems to be a change in the French position, since France is now drawn in, one way or another, behind the United States. It has reinforced its military presence in the Arabian Gulf and Peninsula. We did not expect this change in the French position.

Replying to another question on the U.S. presence in the region, the brother president said: We consider the intensive U.S. and foreign presence in the Peninsula and Gulf as portending danger to the security and safety of the region. God forbid, if war breaks out, it would have negative effects on Arab interests. The states in the region will be harmed. The European states and the United States will also be harmed as a result of this explosion. He added: We believe that the United States has achieved its aims to establish its presence in the Peninsula. I hope that the other objective, which is the outbreak of war, will not be achieved.

With regard to the Iraqi presence, he said: The truth is that the problem could have been resolved within the Arab group. We, as an Arab group, can influence Iraq, prompt it to return its forces back to Iraq, and resolve this problem within the Arab fold. However, what exacerbated the problem was the escalation caused by the arrival of the foreign fleets and their concentration on Arab land and seas. We did not expect matters to reach this point. We called for the protection of Saudi land by Arab forces prior to the arrival of foreign forces in the holy land. The reaction of the Arab and Islamic street to the foreign presence is difficult, because it affects the credibility of dealing with the United States and the West since they interfere in every Arab and Muslim issue. This is a new colonial outlook. It affects economic relations, interests, and trust between Arabs and Muslims on the one hand and the United States and the West on the other. The intensive military presence raises the concern of Arabs and Muslims. We think that the United States and the West have no right to worry about their interests since they are linked to Arab interests. The truth is that oil exports from the Peninsula and the Gulf to the United States and the West benefit both parties. He added: We believe there is no cause for war and that the second party, Iraq, does not want war. We are sure that Iraq will not launch an attack and that there will be no war because diplomacy is under way. We have contacts with several friendly countries and they would like the problem to be resolved peacefully by diplomatic means, because we believe that no one wants war, neither the United States nor any other party now that the aims have been attained and the foreign presence exists. He added: We are exerting special and joint efforts with the rest of the Arab leaders who want peace and to spare the region this crisis.

Prime Minister Highlights Media Role in Crisis

*JN0109143990 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 1 Sep 90*

[Excerpts] Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas today opened the information center of the Yemeni news agency SABA' which includes photographic transmission equipment, facsimile equipment, and telex machines, as well as typewriters, polaroid cameras, telephone booths with international lines, and a darkroom for processing and printing photographs. [passage omitted]

The brother prime minister then delivered a directive speech to those present in which he pointed out the vitality of the media sector. He said that through the media and their various branches the political leadership and the state can form strong ties with the masses of the people.

The news agency plays a very important role within the framework of these organs since it is the center of news and information. It must remain the center of information in the future through development so that it can provide all information organs with the news and contribute toward the preparation of political analyses and research, which helps the political leadership in decisionmaking in various fields. At the same time, information can be dispatched as soon as it is received. Such information is also considered an essential element in political, economic, or social decisionmaking.

The brother prime minister said in view of its importance and from this perspective, the state gives the news agency great attention inasmuch as it provides news and information.

In his speech, the brother prime minister discussed the current crisis in the Gulf region. He affirmed our country's firm and principles regarding this crisis the major goal of which is to ward off the dangers of a military explosion in the region and solve the crisis through peaceful means within the Arab fold as it is an Arab issue.

He stressed that those who work in the media should, when dealing with this crisis, take into consideration higher pan-Arab interests. He said all should observe objectivity and respect the truth to avoid falling into an abyss that could harm the national interest of our country and the interests of our Arab nation.

Prime Minister on Crisis, Return of Yemenis

JN0309152490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Prime Minister Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas this morning called a news conference for local, Arab, and world media correspondents, along with journalists visiting the country with British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd. He answered questions on the Gulf crisis and our country's efforts to contain it and find a peaceful way out along the lines of an Arab-based solution.

The brother prime minister stated that the Republic of Yemen has from the outset taken the clear line of approaching the Gulf crisis from the standpoint of an internal Arab affair to be worked out first and foremost by Arab states. He noted that the UN Security Council resolutions were unduly rushed, hence Yemen's abstention. Our country, he added, is a member of the United Nations and the UN Security Council, and abides by all the resolutions passed on the issue. Since the resolutions were passed, no Iraqi shipments have been unloaded or otherwise received by Yemen. He indicated that the only vessel to have shipped oil to the Aden refinery arrived prior to the passage of the relevant UN Security Council resolution. The vessel, he added, began unloading its cargo, but the unloading was discontinued once the resolution was passed. The prime minister regretted that there have been some incorrect and tendentious newspaper reports.

He said that the government has arranged for the transportation back home of Yemeni nationals who arrived in Jordan from Kuwait. Al-'Attas said: Our country is working toward a peaceful resolution of the Gulf crisis and exploring avenues to reduce tension, and thus improving the chances for the voice of reason to be heard.

Envoys Depart for Morocco, Ethiopia

JN0309151490 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 3 Sep 90

[Text] Brother Dr 'Abd-al-'Aziz al-Dali, state minister for foreign affairs, today left Sanaa for a visit to Morocco. He told SABA' he has a letter from brother Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, to his brother King Hassan of Morocco dealing with bilateral ties, the explosive Gulf situation, and efforts to work out an Arab-based solution to the Gulf crisis.

At the same time, brother Salih Abu-Bakr Ibn-Husaynun, minister of oil and mineral wealth, left for Addis Ababa. The minister told SABA' he has a letter from brother Lt Gen 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Ethiopian President Mengistu Haile Mariam on bilateral ties and the Gulf.

Salih Receives Message From Tunisian President

JN0109131090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 1 Sep 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih, chairman of the Presidential Council, received at his office this morning brother Nejib Chebbi, secretary general of the Progressive Socialist Assembly in Tunisia and the envoy of the Tunisian president. The latter delivered a message to the brother president from his brother Tunisian President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali dealing with current events in the Gulf region as well as views and coordination on these matters. The message also dealt with fraternal bilateral relations.

The brother president gave a message replying to his brother President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali concerning our country's concern in coordinating Arab stands and efforts to contain the crisis and avert the disaster of a military explosion in the region, as well as guaranteeing a peaceful solution to the crisis within the Arab fold and away from foreign intervention.

The meeting was attended by brothers Dr. [name indistinct], member of the Consultative Council; [words indistinct] at the United Arab Emirates; and (Mohamed Ba'thur), Tunisian charge d'affaires in Sanaa.

Saddam Initiative Offers Free Oil to Third World

NC1009162790 Baghdad Television Service in Arabic 1503 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Statement by President Saddam Husayn issued on 10 September—read by announcer]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Brothers and friends, esteemed leaders and peoples of the Third World countries, peace be upon you.

In describing you and us as the Third World, the big and developed countries wanted to describe not the gap that exists between us and them in scientific, technical, and economic development and the degree of these kinds of development in general—for which the colonialist system, which constituted the basis of the developing countries' world, was primarily responsible, but wanted in describing our world as the Third World to define the human level which they decided to give us in their dealings with us and their views of us.

This has been their actual behavior and dealing with all. Therefore, brothers, do not be surprised when the big and developed countries do not accord a degree of attention to your issues, problems, and humanity in every measure they take or decision they make. On this basis also, those who decided to invade the oil countries in the Middle East and insulted the sanctities of the Muslims when they occupied the land of Najd and Hejaz did not ask nor answer the question of what harm will befall the Third World countries as a result of their shameful action.

At a time when oil monopolies began making illegal profits as a result of this crisis, they left the Third World states to wallow in their crises because of the increase in the oil prices resulting from their crime—an increase the economy of the Third World cannot absorb. If there is less oil, we have absolutely no doubt that you will only receive quantities of oil that are in excess of the need of the big and more developed countries, even if you suffer big disasters.

On the basis of this assessment and the spirit of brotherhood and the solidarity of us and our Arab nation, which is part of your state and fate, we have been targeted by the United States, Zionism, and their satellite imperialist states. On the basis of this situation also, we have maintained solidarity with you in all previous circumstances and conditions. We have called for easing your burden at the nonaligned conference in Havana in 1979. Iraq at the time was faithful to its call when it conceded the differences in the oil price increase to the Third World states which had bought oil from it. The states affected by this decision must still remember this gracious initiative.

Out of this appreciation and feeling of brotherhood and solidarity with you and in appreciation for your just position toward the fateful Arab issues, led by the issue of Palestine, we today declare that we are your brothers and that we and you have the same fate. Therefore, we now declare our readiness to supply the needy Third World countries with Iraqi oil free of charge. Those who wish to take advantage of these arrangements, which we assume are not covered by the U.S. boycott as they do not involve buying and selling—we say, those who wish that must submit their applications to us, indicating the quantity and type of oil they need. If we are unable to transport the oil to them on our tankers, they must arrange for it at their own expense.

Brothers, this decision has been made on a principled and moral basis to ease your burden and to maintain solidarity with you at a time when we are able to fulfill such a role. This position has not and will not be linked to the kind of decision you make and to your position on the current crisis because we respect the views of states and peoples and know that each one has its own considerations and positions. We do not presuppose identity in all issues for the maintenance of ties of friendship and brotherhood. We also do not get angry as a result of differences in positions on the basis of different views and differences in facts and information. We only get angry when any imperialist state tries to impose its position on us by force as an expression of the complex of their lack of respect for the Third World countries and peoples and their failure to treat them with human equality and appreciation.

Our greetings to you and to all the oppressed and poor peoples. May God's peace and blessings be upon you. God is witness to our intentions.

[Signed] Your brother, Saddam Husayn

[Dated] 20 Saqar 1411 Hegira, corresponding to 10 September 1990.

'Aziz Explains Historical Background to Events

JN1109105690 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 90 p 4

["Text" of file in the form of an undated letter by Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, to Arab and world state foreign ministers enclosed with President Saddam Husayn's message to U.S. President George Bush and USSR President Mikhail Gorbachev on 9 September]

[Text] Amid the developments witnessed by the Arabian Gulf region, I find it necessary and beneficial to convey some of the facts which will help you understand the background to the events this region has gone through.

It is known that Iraq has been a political entity and center for many states for many thousands of years. Throughout its long history, Iraq has been a littoral state famous for its huge trade activities. The small village which, over the past two centuries, was established on the shores of the Arabian Gulf and called Kuwait—an Iraqi word meaning "the small populated colony"—was, during the 19th century and until before the outbreak of World War I, a district belonging to the al-Basrah Governorate and a part of Iraq in accordance with the administrative laws set by the Ottoman Empire at that time.

The then governor of al-Basrah, Muhsin Pasha, in 1897 informed the Shaykh of Kuwait (Mubarak al-Sabah) of the sultan's decision to appoint him district administrative officer of the District of Kuwait, which belonged to the Governorate of al-Basrah. The Shaykh had killed his two older brothers (Muhammad and Jarrah) urged by Britain, since they took a stand opposed to the British scheme to make Kuwait an entity belonging to it and subjecting it to its influence.

In 1899 Britain urged Shaykh of Kuwait Mubarak al-Sabah to sign a secret agreement with it to protect him despite the fact that he belonged to the Ottoman Empire and did not have the right to sign international agreements. This was strongly rejected by the Ottoman sultan. In 1901, Mubarak al-Sabah once again declared his loyalty to, and dependency on, the Ottoman Empire.

Britain did not stop its attempts. It was establishing bases in various regions of the Arabian Gulf to spread its colonialist control in this region whose strategic value was increasing. That control was political or military, within the framework of competition with the Ottoman Empire, and economic, since the Gulf was an important trade route and since the British knew about the huge oil reserves beneath the surface. It also guaranteed the interests of the British Empire by weakening all the important countries in the region. Therefore, Britain concentrated its efforts on Kuwait and created fabricated borders on its side, as it did later on with its ally France during World War I, when it divided influence in accordance with the Sykes-Picot Agreement of 1917. In this way, it severed a part of Iraq in a very devious manner aimed at depriving it—a country with an ancient civilization and large area and population—from its natural command of the Arabian Gulf water which it enjoyed throughout history. In this fabricated and colonialist way, an entity with the name of Kuwait was established under British control with artificial borders and no roots in history or geography.

Since its establishment in 1921, the State of Iraq has refused to give up this artificial entity; the successive governments continued to demand the return of this severed part to Iraq and to do Iraq justice geographically and historically, secure its economic and trade interests, provide the necessary protection, and defend its national security despite the strong relations which at that time used to link the Iraqi system with Britain.

Britain had also resisted any plan to bring the sons of the one people in Iraq and Kuwait close together or to maintain continuous contacts between them. The projects to supply Kuwait with water from the Shatt al-'Arab, to lay a railroad to Kuwait, and to establish an Iraqi port in the city of Kuwait were also rejected. These projects had continued to clash with the British procrastination and rejection since 1923 and until the early sixties. Later, Britain began to exert pressure on the Iraqi Government to force it to accept the fait accompli. When the British Government forced Iraq's prime minister in 1932 to exchange correspondence with the British Commissioner in Baghdad regarding the demarcation of borders in light of the proposed draft agreement between the Ottoman and British Governments, which was not signed due to the eruption of war, the Iraqi House of Representatives, in its capacity as the legislative authority in accordance with the Constitution, refused to endorse this correspondence.

During the thirties, the popular Iraqi demand to return Kuwait to Iraq escalated and the national press adopted these demands and supported them with historic articles and documents stressing the inevitability of Kuwait's return to Iraq. In his letters to the resident British political commissioner in the Gulf in 1933, Colonel Dixon, British political under secretary in Kuwait [name and title as published], referred to this, warned against rapprochement, and called for separating the sons of Kuwait from the sons of their homeland, Iraq. In 1940, the Kuwait governor replaced the Iraqi administration of the postal department in Kuwait with British administration. In 1945 the Iraqi schools and education curricula applied in Kuwait's schools were replaced by Egyptian curricula. King Ghazi, Iraq's second king, was one of those who showed enthusiasm about the need for unity between Iraq and Kuwait. He expressed his desire to visit Kuwait in reply to Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabah's visit to Iraq in 1932. However, Britain did not encourage the visit and prevented Iraq and Kuwait from reaching any agreement.

In April 1938, the then Iraqi Foreign Minister Tawfiq al-Suwaydi informed British Ambassador in Baghdad Peterson that the Ottoman-British agreement of 1913 recognized Kuwait as a district of al-Basrah Governorate, that after the transfer of sovereignty over al-Basrah Governorate from the Ottoman state to the Iraqi state sovereignty should also include Kuwait as stipulated in the 1913 agreement, and that Iraq did not recognize any change in the status of Kuwait.

In Kuwait, the popular Iraqi call for returning Kuwait to Iraq was received with great response from the citizens there. The Kuwaiti youths had actively called for unity with Iraq. in 1938, a group of "the free men of Kuwait" submitted a request to the Iraqi Government in which they called on it to fulfill their aspirations of returning Kuwait to Iraq, and a "national bloc" was formed for this purpose. This bloc called on Kuwait's Shaykh Ahmad al-Sabah to form a legislative council representing the free men of Kuwait, and he was compelled to agree. During the first session of that council in 1938, members of the council called for returning Kuwait to Iraq. This did not appeal to its governor, who, on 21 December 1938, dissolved the council and arrested and persecuted its members. Despite this, the free men of Kuwait continued to call for returning Kuwait to Iraq. They sent several cables to King Ghazi, one of which was broadcast in Baghdad on 7 March 1939, urging him to intervene, whose text was as follows: "Our history supports the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. We live and die under the Iraqi flag. [King] Ghazi help your brothers in Kuwait." The situation reached a point were a mammoth uprising, organized by the Kuwaiti youths, erupted on 10 March 1939, during which the Kuwait governor used weapons to disperse demonstrators and imprisoned a large number of them.

King Ghazi attempted to intervene to secure the release of those detained. He warned the shaykh of Kuwait asking him to halt the pursuit of the free men of Kuwait.

At the time, considerable British pressure was put on King Ghazi and the Iraqi Government to make them drop the Iraqi claim for annexing Kuwait. For this purpose, the British ambassador in Baghdad Peter Sawn [name as published] held several unannounced meetings with King Ghazi before his death to apply pressure on him to drop his claim for annexing Kuwait. After a while, King Ghazi was killed in a mysterious incident on the night of 5 April 1939. This proves that Britain was behind his death and that his enthusiasm for the return of Kuwait to Iraq was one of the reasons for his liquidation.

After the assassination of King Ghazi, pro-British figures ruled in Iraq. Then, World War II broke out. The ensuing years witnessed events and changes in Iraq and the region, including the establishment of Israel, the Arab-Israeli war, and the Egyptian revolution. The British colonial powers used this as a pretext to bolster their influence in Kuwait and sever Kuwait's human and political links with Iraq.

On 9 April 1956 and during the visit to Baghdad by British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd to attend the advisory meeting of the Permanent Council of the Baghdad Pact, Nuri al-Sa'id spoke with him on the issue of Kuwait joining the Arab Federation which was in the making. The British foreign secretary promised to submit the issue for consideration to the British Council of Ministers. British ambassador in Baghdad Michael Wright, who was the channel for providing the answer to the issue, said that Britain was ready to grant Kuwait independence. As for joining the Federation, the ambassador said that Kuwait would have the freedom of choice in this regard. To place Britain before a fait accompli, Iraq dispatched the then Deputy Prime Minister Tawfiq al-Suwaydi to Shtawrah in Lebanon in April 1957 where 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, shaykh of Kuwait, was residing to negotiate with him on the need to see Kuwait join the Federation which was in the offing. However, this failed to produce any positive results.

At the beginning of 1958, Iraqi Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id stressed to the members of the Baghdad Pact the need to annex Kuwait to Iraq at a meeting attended by Turkey, Iran, Pakistan, and Britain. The meeting was also attended by the then U.S. Secretary of State John Foster Dulles as an observer. Al-Sa'id failed in his bid because of the opposing British stand.

After the launching of the Arab Federation between Iraq and Jordan on 14 February 1958, King Faysal II, Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id, and Federation Foreign Minister Tawfiq al-Suwaydi raised the issue of unity with Kuwait with British Foreign Secretary Selwyn Lloyd. However, the British rejected this bid.

When 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, the shaykh of Kuwait, visited Baghdad on 10 May 1958, King Faysal II of Iraq and Prime Minister Nuri al-Sa'id approached him on Kuwait joining the Arab Federation. The shaykh of Kuwait said then that he had to consult with the British and know their opinion on this.

On 5 June 1958, the Federation Government submitted a secret memorandum to the British Embassy in Baghdad in which it raised the issue of Kuwait joining the Arab Federation. The following passage is an excerpt from the memorandum: "Kuwait was territory subject to the sovereignty of the Ottoman state from the legal and international point of view. It was a district affiliated to the Governorate of al-Basrah. This sovereignty aspect had never been a bone of contention to the Kuwaiti or British local authorities. No doubts had been cast on this by either of the two sides. As a matter of fact, the British Government implicitly recognized this in the Turkish-British agreement signed in London on 29 August 1913. Article 6 of the agreement stipulates that the shaykh of Kuwait has the right to exercise his administrative authorities in his capacity as an Ottoman admininstrative district officer affiliated to the Governorate of al-Basrah."

As a result, the Iraqi Government as well as the Arab Federation Government reached the conviction that Britain was behind the obstacles laid to prevent the attainment of this objective. This created tension in Iraqi-British ties. This also prompted Iraq to redouble its efforts and apply pressure on Britain in this regard. To achieve this, the Iraqi Government prepared a memorandum substantiated with documents and evidence on the need to see Kuwait join the Arab Federation. This memorandum was scheduled to be published on 12 August 1958. However, the British ambassador requested that the publication of this memorandum be postponed and informed Arab Federation Foreign Minister Tawfiq al-Suwaydi of Britain's approval in principle of the idea of Kuwait joining the Arab Federation, provided that the details of this be considered at a meeting to be held between the prime minister and the Arab Federation foreign minister on the one hand and the British prime minister and foreign secretary on the other in London on 24 July 1958. However, the launching of the 14 July 1958 revolution in Iraq prevented this event from taking place.

In 1961, Britain decided to grant this artificial entity what it called "independence." The then Iraqi prime minister declared in a news conference held on 25 June 1961 that Kuwait was an indivisible part of Iraq and that he did not recognize the special relationship agreement signed for Britain by M. J. Mead, the resident British politician in the Gulf, and for Kuwait by 'Abdallah al-Salim al-Sabah, shaykh of Kuwait. In the wake of this announcement, Britain massed its troops against Iraq to protect its protege which was called "The State of Kuwait."

Had it not been for the mistake made by the then Iraqi Foreign Minister Hashim Jawad when he angrily walked out of an Arab League Council meeting held to discuss the admission of the so-called "State of Kuwait" into the League—a matter which allowed for its admission into the League on 20 July 1961—this artificial entity would have remained outside the League and consequently outside international organizations because the decision to admit a new member into the Arab League must be unanimous.

The Iraqi Foreign Ministry issued a statement on 21 July 1961 considering the Arab League Resolution No. 1777-35 on the admission of Kuwait into the Arab League as a blatant violation of the League Charter which demands a unanimous vote. The statement added that Iraq views this resolution as null and void and believes that Kuwait is an indivisible part of Iraq. It went on to say that Iraq will work to regain this part through all legitimate means.

The government of the former Kuwaiti regime failed in several attempts to join the United Nations between 1961 and the end of 1963.

After the toppling of the political regime which was operating in Iraq between July 1958 and February 1963, the former Kuwaiti prime minister visited Baghdad under the turbulent political circumstances that were engulfing Iraq. A joint statement was issued on the basis of the correspondence exchanged in 1932. However, the National Council of the Revolutionary Command, in its capacity as the highest legislative authority in Iraq, and acting on the provisions of the interim constitution of 1963, has not endorsed the aforesaid statement.

From this historical presentation, it becomes clear that none of the successive Iraqi governments has ever subscribed to the separation of this part of its homeland. None of these governments has ever signed any border treaties with the artificial entity established within their borders. Also, no constitutional law identifying these borders has ever been issued.

This was the situation when the 17-30 July Revolution of 1968 took place. The revolutionary government under the directives of President Saddam Husayn was concerned about reaching a settlement of this problem to retrieve a reasonable amount of Iraq's historic rights and eliminate a part, even if limited, of the injustice done to Iraq since the beginning of this century.

During the seventies, Iraq was the one who initiated talks with the former rulers of Kuwait to find such a settlement. However, the former Kuwaiti rulers, encouraged by their allies the foreign powers, used to insist that Iraq accept the measures imposed by the British colonialist. In 1972 and 1973, the Iraqi foreign minister visited the city of Kuwait to discuss this subject. The interior minister also visited the city of Kuwait for the same purpose on 15 May 1978; many committees were set up without achieving any result.

This subject was forgotten for a while due to the war between Iraq and Iran. Immediately after liberating the al-Faw Peninsula and while attending the Algiers summit in May 1988, I informed the foreign minister of the former regime in Kuwait of our honest desire to solve this issue. However, we were surprised that the former regime did not respond to this desire quickly. It did not provide us with an answer until the beginning of July 1988 when the foreign minister of the former regime visited Iraq and an agreement was reached on discussing the subject between the two foreign ministers.

Talks between the two ministers were delayed due to the Iraq-Iran talks which started then and my preoccupation with them. The president decided to send the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council [RCC] to the city of Kuwait on 6 December 1988 to urge the former regime to reopen discussion of the subject. Agreement was reached that the discussion would be attended by RCC vice chairman from our side and the heir apparent of the former regime on their side.

After a while, Sa'd al-'Abdallah al-Sabah [Kuwaiti prime minister and heir apparent] visited Iraq on 6 Febraury 1989 in response to the RCC vice chairman's visit. It became apparent that he was not ready to look into Iraq's legitimate demands, even the humblest minimum of them.

On 27 March 1989, Sa'ud al-'Usaymi, minister of state for foreign affairs in the former regime, visited Baghdad and officially asked that discussion of the issue be postponed. During the visit by the shaykh of Kuwait to Baghdad in September 1989, President Saddam Husayn once again called for resuming discussion of the border issue. Agreement was reached to follow up on this topic between Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi and the foreign minister of the former regime. And actually, Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi visited the city of Kuwait on 19 November 1989 to discuss the subject. The foreign minister of the former regime did not respond to that visit until February 1990.

It is worth noting here that the foremr rulers of Kuwait exploited the period during which this issue was left pending. They also exploited Iraq's preoccupation with its internal problems and the affairs of the region, last of which was the war between Iraq and Iran which lasted for eight years and which they exploited to move northward and set up control posts, military installations, farms, and oil installations.

In 1963, for example, al-Mitla' was the crossing point between the city of Kuwait and al-Basrah. Passports issued by the old Kuwaiti government used to be stamped at that point for those leaving Kuwait. But this point was later moved more than 70 kilometers northward to create a de facto situation, while Iraq was preoccupied with its internal affairs and with the problems of the region.

Dear colleague: Concerning the political and economic aspects of the problem, I would like to clarify the following:

In February 1990 President Saddam Husayn warned at the Amman summit against the continued presence of the U.S. fleet in the Arabian Gulf after the war between Iraq and Iran had ended. He said:

"The United States maintains its presence in the Gulf because, in view of the developments of world politics, the high prospects for the oil market and the increasing need for this oil by the Americans, Europeans, Japanese, the Eastern European countries, and perhaps the Soviet Union, the Gulf is the most important spot in the region, and perhaps the world. The country that will have the greater influence in the region through the Arab Gulf and its oil will maintain its superiority as an undisputed superpower. This means that the Arabian Gulf region will be under U.S. control if the sons of the Gulf, together with all the Arabs, fail to be alert. And if weakness and lack of vigilance continues, things may develop to a stage where the United States may seek to determine the amount of oil and gas produced by every state, and the amount to be sold to this country or that. It may seek to determine the price in accordance with a certain vision that serves the interests of the United States and ignores the interests of others."

Immediately after the president's speech, the vicious campaign against Iraq was stepped up by the U.S. and Western circles influenced by Zionism, and it became clear that those circles were preparing for a political and media blockade against Iraq and a military strike against it through Israel, with a view to destroying Iraq's military power, which, according to those circles, has disturbed the strategic balance in the region which had been in Israel's favor.

When President Saddam Husayn spoke at the Amman summit, the price of oil ranged between $18 and $21 dollars per barrel. Immediately afterward, the ex-Kuwaiti rulers and the United Arab Emirates surprisingly called for an increase of their oil quotas set by OPEC. And before waiting a discussion of the issue by the cartel, they began to flood the oil market, causing a sharp decline in prices. Iraq's already-meager revenues began to decrease quickly. Oil prices dropped to 11 dollars per barrel, which meant a loss of several billion dollars for Iraq, which was already suffering from a very difficult economic situation as a result of the heavy cost of the war.

Through diplomatic means and bilateral contacts, Iraq sought to draw attention to the destructive impact of this policy. It sent envoys to Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates, Saudi Arabia, and other countries, but to no avail.

At the Arab summit in Baghdad (28-30 May 1990), and in the presence of all the Arab leaders, President Saddam Husayn warned against this policy at the closed session on 30 May 1990. He said: "War is sometimes waged by soldiers, and harm can be caused through explosions, murder, coup attempts, and sometimes through the economy." He added: "For those who do not intend to launch war against Iraq, I say that this is a kind of war against Iraq."

The policy of the United Arab Emirates and ex-Kuwaiti rulers, however, did not change after the summit; they continued to flood the market with oil and shake up the oil prices. In the last third of June 1990, Iraq again sent Deputy Prime Minister Dr. Sa'dun Hammadi with messages from President Saddam Husayn to King Fahd, Jabir al-Ahmad, and Shaykh Zayid. Iraq proposed a quadripartite summit among Iraq, Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, and the United Arab Emirates to reach a satisfactory solution to the problem. But King Fahd, the ex-ruler of Kuwait, and the President of the United Arab Emirates eluded the proposal and approved a meeting of the oil ministers. The meeting took place on 10 July 1990, and those ministers pretended that they agreed to a return to the scheduled production quotas. However, immediately after the meeting was over, the oil minister of the old Kuwaiti regime said his regime would again ask for a higher quota in October. This meant a sabotage of the positive results achieved in the meeting and a continuation of the conspiracy to destroy Iraq's economy.

In a speech on 16 July 1990, President Saddam Husayn reiterated the warning against the new conspiracy that some Arabs had begun against Iraq. In this speech, he said: "Because the Iraqis, who have been harmed by this premeditated act of injustice, believe well enough of their right to defend their rights and themselves, they will not forget the old saying (It is more painful to have one's head cut off than one's sustenance). If words prove unable to provide protection, effective action must be taken to restore usurped rights to their lawful claimants."

In this speech, his excellency made the point that Iraq's losses amounted to $14 billion since oil prices went down from $28 to $11 as a result of the policy of flooding the world market with cheap oil, which augmented the stock of the United States, whose need for imported oil has increased. This policy greatly harms the national economy and constitutes a treacherous stab to Iraq, which emerged victorious after a long, costly war with heavy debt which must be repayed so that Iraq can proceed with its development program and secure the subsistence of the people who endured a great deal and offered the best of their youths to defend Iraq's national and pan-Arab security and defend the Gulf region against the sweeping Iranian danger.

Before that, his excellency issued a clear warning while receiving Saudi Oil Minister Hisham al-Nazir on 9 July 1990. His excellency said then: I will never agree to let Iraqis starve and Iraqi women go naked because of need.

On 15 July 1990, the Arab League secretary general in Tunis was handed a detailed memorandum on the facts and figures that confirm the involvement of the former rulers of Kuwait in the plot of destroying the Iraqi economy. The memorandum also exposes their deliberate, continuous transgressions over the years against Iraq and its basic rights. You have been informed of that memorandum, which was communicated to you through diplomatic means, and of what we said in this regard. The Kuwaiti Government's aggression against Iraq has been a double aggression; it trespassed on our territory and oil fields, and stole our oil wealth. Such an act is tantamount to military aggression. With the Kuwaiti Government's deliberate attempt to cause the Iraqi economy to collapse, this was no less effective than a military aggression.

Following President Saddam Husayn's speech of 16 July 1990 and our memorandum to the Arab league secretary general on 15 July 1990, a number of Arab leaders intervened, and it was decided to hold a meeting in Jeddah on 30 July between the vice chairman of the Revolution Command Council and the heir apparent of the former Kuwaiti regime. Many sincere Arab leaders eager to bring about a satisfactory solution to the problem greatly hoped that the rulers of Kuwait would abandon their arrogance, intransigence, and deliberate attempts to harm Iraq. However, the behavior of the Kuwaiti delegation was that of procrastination and denial of Iraq's just, clear rights.

Thus, the conclusion that the rulers of the past regime were determined to go ahead in their conspiracy to destroy the Iraqi economy and destabilize its political system was confirmed.

It was this grave conspiracy against Iraq that prompted us to extend support for the youthful Kuwaiti revolutionaries in their uprising of 2 August. The next day, His Majesty King Husayn of Jordan visited Iraq and informed President Saddam Husayn that he held intensive contacts with Arab leaders and that there was a proposal to hold a minisummit in Jeddah on 4 or 5 August to be attended by Iraq, Jordan, Egypt, Yemen, and Saudi Arabia. President Saddam Husayn approved the idea of the mini five-sided summit. This proposal was confirmed during the visit of Yemeni President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih to Iraq on 4 August 1990.

This summit, which had been scheduled for Saturday evening or Sunday, 5 August 1990, was not held because of U.S. interference. President Bush asked his defense secretary on 5 August 1990, the date of the summit, to visit Saudi Arabia and secure the Saudi king's agreement to summon U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia. The U.S. secretary of defense arrived in Jeddah on Monday morning, 6 August, and U.S. forces began entering Saudi Arabia the following day, 7 August. This process took place so quickly that it proves two basic facts: First, there was a premeditated U.S. military plan to control the region, as former U.S. officials like Brzezinski affirmed. This plan has been implemented. Second, the United States deliberately aborted attempts to achieve an Arab solution to the problem, which was to be discussed at the Jeddah summit on 5 August 1990.

One day after the arrival of the U.S. forces in Saudi Arabia, the Egyptian Government called on 8 August for an emergency Arab summit in Cairo without consulting Iraq or ensuring that President Saddam Husayn was ready go to Cairo. Nor did we receive any official invitation from Egypt or the Arab League General Secretariat—in violation of the usual practice.

Despite this strange behavior by the Egyptian Government, an Iraqi delegation led by Taha Yasin Ramadan, Revolution Command Council member and first deputy prime minister, comprising the deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and Sa'dun Hammadi, Revolution Command Council member and deputy prime minister, traveled to Cairo and met with President Mubarak, who told the head of the Iraqi delegation that the purpose of the conference was to hold a dialogue. On the following day and without any opening session or a prior dialogue among the leaders, the Gulf Cooperation Council, Egypt, and others submitted a working paper supporting Saudi Arabia's invitation to the U.S. forces to Saudi Arabia, and also calling for the dispatch of Arab forces to Saudi Arabia. This angered the attending leaders, who demanded that the working paper be withdrawn and that a serious dialogue begin.

But the Egyptian president prevented any dialogue to seek an acceptable solution, and imposed an election for the working paper in a manner unknown to Arab conferences. As a result, another attempt to initiate an Arab solution was aborted. The following countries either objected to the working paper or abstained from voting: Jordan, Yemen, Palestine, Sudan, Libya, Algeria, Mauritania, and Iraq. Tunis boycotted the meeting.

It is clear from this historical background that the question was more than differences over ordinary economic or border issues. We have been dealing with such differences for 20 years, and we have been trying to maintain the best possible relations with the former Kuwaiti rulers despite their bad behavior toward Iraq. It was a premeditated conspiracy in which the former Kuwaiti rulers participated with a U.S. support to destabilize Iraq's economy and weaken its defense capability against the Zionist-imperialist expansion and aggression against the Arab homeland—and consequently to destabilize its political order and promote U.S. hegemony over the region and its oil wealth. This, as stated in President Saddam Husayn's speech at the Baghdad summit and in my letter to the Arab League secretary general, amounted to a war against Iraq. Iraq's relations with the other countries in the region, including Saudi Arabia, were completely different from those we maintained with Kuwait in terms of historical background or bilateral problems. We were eager to maintain normal relations with these countries, and we also complied with the requirements of brotherly relations. We are still eager to abide by these requirements, as long as they abide by them.

In the wake of the reported false claims on alleged Iraqi threats to Saudi Arabia, we affirmed with all available methods the nonexistence of Iraqi threats to Saudi Arabia or other Gulf states. We voiced our willingness to express all the required guarantees, whether within a bilateral framework or within the framework of the Arab League. And we said that we do not object if Saudi Arabia seeks assistance from Arab forces if it is scared, despite the fact that this fabricated fear is baseless.

The other chapter of the issue is related to the position of the Security Council. On the first day of the events, the United States prompted the Security Council to adopt a resolution that is hostile to Iraq on the basis of the Seventh Chapter of the Charter; that is, Resolution No. 660 on 2 August 1990. There is no such precedent in the history of the Security Council. The Council adopted this resolution before listening to the opinion of Iraq, as was the case in all international crises when the foreign ministers of the concerned parties were invited to attend the meetings of the Security Council. It was obvious that feverish American pressure was behind all this. After the first resolution, Resolution No. 661 was issued on 6 August 1990 imposing unjust sanctions on Iraq; and this resolution did not have a precedent. And then three other resolutions were issued for the same purpose—Resolution No. 662 on 9 August, Resolution No. 664 on 18 August, and Resolution No. 665 on 25 August 1990. It was obvious that the United States had launched a fierce campaign and exercised all manner of pressure and terrorism on the states to force them to vote in favor of the resolutions it presented, threatening these countries with a cutoff in economic aid as well as other covert and overt threats.

On 12 August 1990, President Saddam Husayn announced an initiative calling for addressing all regional issues in accordance with the same principles and criteria, honestly hoping that this initiative would open the door for just and peaceful solutions to all regional problems. However, the Western countries rejected this initiative before they even read it or asked about it. Thus emerged the double-standard approach of these countries vis-a-vis regional and international disputes in comparison with their stand on Israel. They did not prompt the Security Council to impose on Israel the many resolutions it adopted with regard to the Palestine question and the rights of the Palestinian people, despite the fact that it has been occupying Palestine for many decades, killing its people with brutality. This is in addition to its occupation of the Syrian Golan and southern Lebanon.

Iraq warns against the danger of the U.S. plot to control the Arab homeland, plunder its resources, and prevent it from achieving progress and enlightenment. And America's unilateral dealing with the region, its tackling of regional problems with this harshness and arrogance—while dragging other countries along—constitutes a serious threat to world peace and security. The danger of this threat will not only be detrimental to the interests of the peoples of the developed Third World, but also to Europe, Japan, and the countries seeking independent positions and authority.

Opposition Reportedly Plans Government-in-Exile

NC1109132090 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1130 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] 'Abd-al-Amir Qasim, official in charge of foreign relations at the Islamic Action Organization in Iraq, announced that the Iraqi opposition factions have agreed on a joint working program to overthrow Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's regime and to form a government-in-exile comprising the various Iraqi opposition wings.

This government will probably be formed before the end of this month.

In another development, informed sources said that Jalal al- Talabani, a leader of anti-Saddam Kurds, is currently touring Arab and international capitals to coordinate among the opposition factions.

Kuwaiti Citizens Ordered To Turn in Firearms

JN1109164990 Kuwait AL-NIDA' in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 1

[Text] Responsible quarters in Kuwait Governorate have ordered that "all firearms possessed by citizens must be turned over to police stations or Popular Army headquarters in the governorate."

This was stated to AL-NIDA' by a responsible source, who said that the competent quarters "will establish records for these weapons, and will allow arms possession or the holding of licenses for eligible persons." The responsible source gave "a one-week ultimatum as of today, 8 September 1990, to respond to this decision." Otherwise, "violators will be subject to the severest penalties."

Editor on 'Sheer Lies' of King Fahd Speech

JN1109184790 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1650 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 11 Sep (INA)—The INA Arab affairs editor has commented on a speech made by the betrayer of the two mosques [King Fahd] yesterday. The editor said: The betrayer claimed there had been a dispute. In fact it was not so, but a premeditated imperialist-Zionist conspiracy whose implementation was led by the betrayer himself. The buried regime in Kuwait and the rulers of the United Arab Emirates were the tools of implementation, and this has been proved by the recording of the [telephone] conversation between the betrayer of the two holy mosques himself and the ruler of Qatar.

The editor added that Iraq did not contemplate aggression against Saudi Arabia. Aggression is not an Iraqi trait, but one of the traits of the betrayer of the two holy mosques and the likes of him who falsifies facts.

Proud Iraq has affirmed readiness to present bilateral, Arab, or international guarantees to prove its good will, but the betrayer of the two holy mosques rushed to invite those forces with the aim of implementing the last part of the conspiracy after they failed to implement the economic part of it.

The editor said Iraq did not mass any force on the border of Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] even after the invitation to the U.S. forces. What the betrayer said is sheer lies, calumnies, and pretexts, by which he is trying to cover up the U.S.-Zionist presence and to threaten Iraq and commit aggression against it in the service of Zionist interests.

The Arab affairs editor stressed that according to Islamic shari'a, a Muslim is not allowed to seek the assistance of infidels against Muslims or to incite them against Muslims. The editor said the invitation of Islamic forces is a symbolic matter aimed at covering up the real crime of inviting U.S. forces to strike at Iraq, insult the Arabs and Muslims holy places, and control the Arab oilfields. Thus, he is violating Islamic shari'a and genuine Arab values.

The editor said that in claiming in his speech that the invading foreign forces will withdraw when there is no need for them, the betrayer of the two holy mosques is forgetting U.S. State Secretary James Baker's declaration that these forces will stay within a new security system drawn by the United States for the region.

The editor affirmed that the ruling regime in Najd and Hejaz [Saudi Arabia] was and continues to be far from Islam in letter and spirit. The whole world knows that it is a subservient regime, its ruler is an obedient puppet in the hand of U.S. imperialism, and his behavior is contrary to the principles of Islamic shari'a and the prophet's traditions. Otherwise, how can his immorality, extravagance, and invitation to those forces conform with Islam when these forces are an insult to the Islamic holy places in Mecca and al-Medina?

The editor said: The alleged concern of the betrayer of the two holy mosques for maintaining Muslim lives is a false one. Had this concern been real, he would not have invited these forces to the land of Najd and Hejaz and spent billions on them from the money of the Arab people in the Arabian Peninsula. Not only this, but he began to incite them against Iraq and urge them to commit aggression against it.

The editor added that his allegation about attempts to resolve the crisis is another false one. It suffices to say that he personally worked to obstruct the five-sided summit which was scheduled to be held before the arrival of the U.S. troops. His alleged talk about a solution or consultations is another lie. The ruler who loses his credibility cannot enjoy the trust and respect of Arabs and Muslims. Therefore, he is an eligible winner of the title of betrayer of the two holy mosques.

Concluding his comment, the INA Arab affairs editor said: The Muslim masses everywhere condemn the regime of the betrayer and his invitation to the infidel forces to the land of holy Mecca and the tomb of the greatest of Prophets, Muhammad, may peace and blessings of God be upon him. This condemnation will be expressed through various means—continuously escalating demonstrations, statements, and protests—until the foreign forces pull out of our holy lands.

'Aziz Says Israel Part of 'Aggressive' Alliance

JN0609173690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1630 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Moscow, 6 Sep (INA)—Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, has stressed that his visit to the Soviet Union took place at the instructions of leader President Saddam Husayn to brief Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Iraq's position on the current situation in the Arabian Gulf region.

Speaking at a news conference in Moscow today at the conclusion of a two-day visit, Tariq 'Aziz said viewpoints were exchanged on the situation in our region prior to President Gorbachev's meeting with the U.S. President in Helsinki, scheduled for Sunday [9 September]. [passage omitted]

Commenting on a question on why the blockade is being imposed against Iraq when none was placed on Israel, which has not implemented the known UN Security Council resolutions, Tariq 'Aziz said: During my talks in Amman with UN Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar, I discussed with him the UN resolutions on Israel dating from 1948 until now, and I asked him why none of these resolutions was implemented and why the UN Security Council permanent member states use their powers in a specific case and ignore other problems and resolutions. I also asked him why these states adopt double standards on Arab issues. Do you want us, the Arabs, to play the role of the third-class citizens in this world? No, we will not agree to this, because we consider ourselves a superpower, and we have contributed our share to world civilization, and defended just causes throughout the history of our state—so deal with us as a partner that has equal rights; and if you deal with us on this basis, then we will be pleased to consider all the UN Security Council resolutions. I also told him that he should call attention to the Arab region's problems, and that all these problems are related, and should not be separated from one another, because the Arab masses reject this.

Regarding the Arab position in general and the unity of the Arab front, the foreign minister pointed out to the journalists: Some Arab governments took disgraceful steps when they dispatched their forces to join up with the invading U.S. forces. They should justify this action to their peoples, but this will be very difficult for them. The longer these governments' forces stay in the Arabian Peninsula, the more this will undermine the positions of those rulers. When we talk about two Arab fronts, I believe there is one Arab front, which is a joint front—namely, the joint stand of the Arab people. Despite this, there are Arab governments that are isolated from their peoples. These governments have dispatched their forces to participate in the U.S.-NATO aggression against the

Islamic world and Iraq. These governments do not reflect the trend and awareness in the Arab world, and they will pay a dear price.

Concluding his news conference, Tariq 'Aziz reiterated Iraq's clear stand on responding to any aggression against Iraq. He said: If the aggression does not take place, we will take this into consideration. However, we should also take into consideration the existing alliance among the forces that are present in the region. At present, there is a strategic alliance and a tactical alliance among all the aggressive forces that are present in the region, and Israel is a vital part of this alliance. This fact cannot be ignored when addressing the situation.

Saddam Signs Decision on Trade, Economic 'Crimes'

JN1109172590 Baghdad AL-THAWRAH in Arabic 9 Sep 90 pp 3, 11

["Text" of Revolution Command Council Decision No. 365 issued on 15 Safar 1411 Hegira, 5 September 1990]

[Text] Decision.

In accordance with the provisions of Paragraph 1 of Article 42 of the Constitution, the Revolution Command Council [RCC] has decided the following:

First, while taking into consideration the provisions of RCC Decision No. 315, three hundred and fifteen, issued on 11 August 1990, the sentence of no more than 15 years in prison and confiscation of transferable and nontransferable assets will apply to:

1. All those who withhold a product, do not sell it at its fixed price, or who sell it at a price exceeding that fixed by the departments of the state and the public or mixed sector, or any side authorized to set prices.

2. All those who monopolize goods, services, or finances, or who distribute them or transport them in violation of the laws, regulations, statements, or orders issued regarding them.

3. All those who buy, sell, or mediate in any deal violating the provisions of the amended law No. 20/1970 that regulates trade or the statements issued regarding it, or those who trade, buy, and sell goods whose exchange is restricted to the public sector or banned to those who are not registered license holders.

4. All those who urge, agree to, or help in any incidence to commit one of the crimes stipulated in this decision.

Second, if the perpetrator of one of the crimes stated in this decision is a government employee or one entrusted with a public service who exploits his status to realize a personal benefit, the case shall be viewed as an aggravating circumstance.

Third, for the purpose of applying the provisions of this decision, the testimony of the juvenile shall be considered if it is supported with evidence or context.

Fourth, summary courts organizing trade shall look into crimes stated in this decision, and these courts shall refer to the revolution court those who commit one of these crimes resulting in damage to the national economy and severe damage to the public welfare.

Fifth, this decision shall be published in the official gazette and the competent ministers and authorities shall implement its provisions until further notice.

[Signed] RCC Chairman Saddam Husayn.

Reports on Egyptians Forced To Join Army Denied

JN1009175090 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1705 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Cairo, 10 Sep (INA)—A spokesman for the Iraqi Embassy has denied reports that Iraq has taken any measure to force the Egyptians working in Iraq to enlist in the Armed Forces or Popular Army.

Commenting on claims by an Egyptian newspaper, the spokesman said that those allegations are totally unfounded and that the Egyptian citizens in Iraq exercise free choice. Those who volunteered to join the Popular Army have done so at their free will and out of their pan-Arab affiliation and genuine belief in the common Arab destiny in face of the foreign challenges that threaten the entire Arab existence.

More POW's Exchanged With Iran

9 Sep

JN1209080290 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1813 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Baghdad, 9 Sep (INA)—The 27th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] returning to the homeland arrived at noon today at the al-Mundhiriyah border area. The returning prisoners were accorded an official and popular reception in which mass and popular organizations and citizens took part.

In a related development, a new batch of Iranian POW's, who Iraq has decided to release pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's recent initiative, left the Iraqi territories by land at noon today.

10 Sep

JN1109142690 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Diyala, 10 Sep (INA)—The 28th batch of Iraqi prisoners of war [POW's] arrived at noon today at the al-Mundhiriyah border area. The prisoners were accorded an official, popular reception in which mass and popular organizations and a large crowd of citizens took part.

A new batch of Iranian POW's, which Iraq has decided to release pursuant to President Saddam Husayn's humanitarian initiative, was also handed over today.

Levi on Trip to U.S., Delegation Visit to USSR

TA1209084090 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0600 GMT 12 Sep 90

[News conference by Foreign Minister David Levi with unidentified reporters at Ben-Gurion Airport upon his return to Israel from the United States; broadcast in progress—live]

[Levi] ...Those who made the remarks apparently were not aware of the situation. I bear no grudge against them. The trip was timely and at the invitation of Secretary of State Baker, and the meetings were very good. It could be said that we changed the atmosphere and strengthened relations between the two countries. There is greater understanding of our problems and our vital needs in all fields. We conducted important, extensive, comprehensive, and fruitful meetings, in which all the members of the administration—those with responsibility for the various fields—participated, of course at the request of U.S. policymakers. There was also the meeting with the President, which was good, warm, and encouraging. There was not a single issue left untouched, and it could be said that a direct channel of communications between the secretary of state and myself has been opened. We agreed to avoid any linkage [preceding word in English] between the Gulf crisis and any other issue.

The new situation cannot be seen in the same way as the relationship was seen in the past, for there is now clear and public cooperation. The low profile the Israeli Government has taken does not constitute an agreement to remain on the sidelines regarding the need to coordinate or consult between the two countries. That is what we agreed upon and that is how we appeared together at news conferences. That was also the background to the reports and official announcements issued by the secretary of state; to the meetings with the senior editors of the important newspapers; and to the talks with important public figures, including the national security adviser, all of the secretary of state's advisers, all of the White House staff, and of course, President Bush and the secretary of state.

I am happy to have helped restrengthen relations and to restore the previous status quo of mutual trust and consultations, from now on, in each field and on each issue. More important, we also discussed not only Israel's needs, but also the situation that might arise in the wake of this crisis. The United States agreed with the Israeli position after it was shown to be right. With all due respect, the Palestinian issue is a problem, and we will have to act to resolve it; that depends not only on Israel, but also on the Arab states. We must act jointly with the United States to extricate Arab states from the cycle of war against Israel and to march together in the direction of peace.

There was no talk about an international conference, and certainly not about any conditions that form the bone of contention, but only about consolidating a joint policy. As for the future, we will have to act wisely to maintain these relations. There is such a readiness by the United States, which was expressed in the meetings, the joint appearances, the favorable announcements, the positive response to Israel's requests, and in particular, the agreed upon coordination between us now in all fields of mutual interest. I am not saying that one man solves all problems, but this was a good beginning and it must be cultivated.

I am not saying that we have answers to all our questions. These meetings were the start of a good era. We are approaching the New Year, and it is certainly a good year for the people of Israel for successful activities and better relations than before. Ladies and gentlemen, I am open to any questions.

[Reporter] Minister Levi, a senior official in Secretary Baker's entourage said today it is possible that under certain circumstances the United States would consider favorably the idea of an international conference to deal with the Gulf and the Israeli-Arab conflict. What is your response to that?

[Levi] There is nothing new in that; it has always been known. In our meetings we discussed direct negotiations, and that is the U.S. and Israeli position. We will work on that idea and act to implement it. The United States never said an international conference belongs in a surrealistic world. There is such a possibility, and we live with the knowledge that it exists, but under no circumstances do we agree to it. It is not the path and framework for solving problems. We demand what is elementary and accepted throughout the entire world, especially these days: direct negotiations. The United States will aspire to make the situation created in the wake of the crisis one of peace, development, and progress. That is what we agreed upon together. We agreed to meet again in two weeks at the UN General Assembly. Baker will think of ideas, as will I. There is no linkage [preceding word in English], and there is no pressure for an international conference.

[Reporter] Mr. Foreign Minister, as THE NEW YORK TIMES reported, the United States no longer opposes greater Soviet involvement in the political process. How do you view that?

[Levi] We never said that Israel is the one to give the green light to who should be involved and who should not. The USSR, because of its links and policy, was closer to the Arab states. It provided them with arms and supported them, and Israel naturally did not view the Soviet approach as objective or beneficial for it. Today, if involvement means the suspension of arms supplies to the Arab states, and persuasion and pressure on them to make peace with Israel, it would be a welcome partner, based not on any decision by us, but on a new objective Soviet policy. A Foreign Ministry delegation is leaving tomorrow for the USSR for the first time. I decided on this after an emissary on behalf of Soviet Foreign Minister Shevardnadze for the first time asked that delegations from both Foreign Ministries meet in Moscow to discuss bilateral and regional issues, including disarmament of weapons of destruction. We will discuss all those issues. That is a good development. A meeting has been fixed between Mr. Shevardnadze and myself, and we will be prepared to discuss all issues. I hope we will reach conclusions. I also hope that in addition to all the links between the USSR and Israel in all fields, there will finally be a renewal of diplomatic relations with Israel since the current situation is an anomaly. Things are happening as though diplomatic relations exist, but nothing can replace diplomatic relations. I hope that they will come about soon.

Impact of Visit Analyzed

TA1109145290 Tel Aviv 'AL HAMISHMAR in Hebrew 11 Sep 90 p 7

[Commentary by Avner Regev]

[Text] The weekend press was full of syrupy comment on Foreign Minister David Levi's visit to Washington. Each article highlighted the red carpet treatment he was accorded at every meeting, the compliments he received, the smiles and the U.S. protocol by which they tried to conceal the U.S. Administration's "master plan," one of whose chief components is the making of David Levi into the channel to spearhead the U.S. position in the Middle East peace process.

Anyone who deals in relations with the United States knows how the Americans treat those they favor and esteem. The administration spent a long time preparing for Levi's visit to Washington, all the time hinting to the press that he would be given real VIP treatment, as indeed happened.

At the same time, it behooves us to point out that Levi returns from the United States enjoying a high standing and a lot of appreciation, having left a good impression on Washington and having established the fact that "the Americans do have someone in the cabinet to talk to."

Since 1984, upon the establishment of the national unity government in Israel, the Americans have placed all their bets on Yitzhaq Rabin, the then defense minister, who had previously served as ambassador to their country. They nurtured him and helped him attain his wishes in the United States, hoping that in return he would assist them in passing on certain ideas in the unity government. Rabin enjoyed a reasonable level of cooperation with the Americans. He often served as the test case for certain ideas to be discussed before passing them on to Shamir. For a while Shim'on Peres also tried to get into the picture, but the Washington-Rabin-Shamir axis proved stronger. The chief success of this axis was the 1989 cabinet vote on elections in the territories, which Rabin ushered in.

The incumbent U.S. Administration has a problem with Shamir. Bush is not overly enamored of Shamir, and Baker's relations with Arens have also cooled somewhat with Arens' failure to persuade Shamir to accept Baker's five points, which were based on the Shamir initiative, which is actually Rabin's idea. Since Rabin is no longer a cabinet member, the U.S. Administration can only try to build a bridge of understanding with Foreign Minister David Levi in the hope that his relatively independent thinking—as evidenced, for example, in his vote for the withdrawal from Lebanon—would lead him toward greater understanding with the United States, a sentiment he would then try to extend to the government as a whole. Shamir and Arens might find themselves holding positions contrary to Levi's, who seems to have been freed of the constraints since his Washington tour.

The gimmick of the meeting with Bush, which was ostensibly set up as an afterthought, is merely one of the methods the Americans employ in their attempt to impress their visitors. "I will call him Jim and he will call me David" is another public relations stunt meant to win over the foreign minister, seeing that he is a novice in this kind of thing. The U.S. Administration regards Levi as a politician with his own interests in mind, who sees himself as the intended prime minister. Hence the great investment they are willing to put in him in the hope for results in the near future.

Levi arrived in Washington after the U.S. Administration had already exhibited a lot of goodwill toward Cairo, culminating in President Bush's agreement to write off Egypt's debts. This decision must still be approved by Congress, and the administration must prove that it shows an evenhanded attitude in its activity in the Middle East. Levi's visit gave the administration an opportunity to demonstrate this evenhandedness by issuing statements in support of Israel, and promising the continued flow of aid, military and other. As things stand now, Levi will return from Washington—according to the reports—with a handful of promises and a lot of sweet talk, but without any agreements regarding debt write-offs, increased military aid, or guarantees for $400 million in housing loans to build apartments for immigrants.

Contrary to the reports disseminated before the trip, which claimed that the United States would issue the guarantees during Levi's visit to Washington, the foreign minister is returning home without the guarantees. According to an item in 'AL HAMISHMAR on 3 September, which was a U.S. reaction to another report from 27 August, in which Shamir expressed his astonishment at the delay in getting the guarantees, the U.S. Administration demanded an explicit committment from the Israeli Government, orally and in writing, that the monies from the loan would not be transferred—directly or indirectly—for purposes of building in the territories, and made the issuance of the guarantees conditional on these terms.

The article in 'AL HAMISHMAR stood in contrast to a secret report sent to Jerusalem by the Israeli ambassador to the United States, which described the details of the ambassador's meeting with a senior official in the U.S. State Department: Mr. Kimmitt, under secretary of state for political affairs. The ambassador wrote, among other things, that he understood from Kimmitt's remarks that Levi would receive the U.S. guarantees so crucial to Israel during his visit to Washington. This report was behind the optimistic mood at the foreign minister's bureau, an optimism which now appears to have been premature.

The Americans find it easier to write off debts to Israel, while doing the same for Egypt, than giving us these assurances, which have now become a political issue. The United States, however, has not as yet announced the cancellation of Israeli debts and has not yet concluded the necessary bureaucratic process for underwriting the loan. Therefore, the foreign minister should not let the perfumed scents of the honor he received in Washington go to his head, but should rather look forward to future relations, after "all the misunderstandings are cleared away."

One can assume from statements made by U.S. Secretary of State Baker before and during Levi's visit that the United States will not agree to link the resolving of the Gulf crisis with an agreement on the Palestinian issue. Reading between the lines, one can see that the political process is not completely dead, and the resolving of the Gulf crisis will encourage the finding of a solution for the Palestinian problem. As foreign minister, David Levi is duty bound to formulate the appropriate conditions for the renewal of the political process. The PLO, as led by 'Arafat, is today unacceptable to either the United States, Egypt, or Syria. Other partners should be found from among the Palestinian people here and abroad, and we should try and launch a dialogue with them against the background of the Gulf crisis. There is no need to wait for the United States to resolve the Gulf crisis; even now we can find channels of communication.

Foreign Minister Levi must act as the initiator and catalyst for this process; by doing so he will gain respect in both Israel and the United States. Washington will have to reward him. Bush and Baker, who were disappointed by Shamir and Arens, will find it hard not to back Levi and his ideas in their attempt to advance the political process. David Levi has nothing to look for in Washington dressed in his constraints costume, and there are stronger constraints figures than himself in Israel. Therefore, he must now choose his political direction. The current point in time, with him returning from Washington swathed in honors and admiration, is definitely auspicious for a new beginning.

Levi goofed twice recently, when he spoke out on the issue of gas masks and regarding the transit of Egyptian refugees through Elat. By doing so, he appeared to give preference to personal considerations over those of the state—and all the explanations doled out by the minister himself or by his advisers will not help. He is now being offered the chance to rise to the level of active political leadership and to prove that he is not the character his "friends" in the government and in the Likud have tried to portray. The Gulf crisis allows Israel to offer solutions without being placed under pressure, and the earlier it does so the better. Foreign Minister Levi can be the right man in the right place at the right time. It all depends on him and on him only.

Levi will return from Washington straight to a meeting with his supporters at Likud headquarters, in a bid to translate the success of his U.S. trip into domestic political capital. This meeting, in conjunction with Levi's initiated break with his deputy, Binyamin Netanyahu, signals Levi's intention to renew his battle for leadership of the Likud. The snide attacks on Netanyahu are a little strange, but are meant as a big hint to Shamir.

Approximately one month ago, just before the visit that was cancelled, Levi came to Shamir and proposed that Israel refrain from announcing any new settlements or anything pertaining to them, so that he could have a successful first trip to the United States. Shamir refused, but following Netanyahu's intervention he relented and accepted the opinion of the foreign minister and his deputy. This is but one example of Netanyahu's usefulness to Levi. Keeping Netanyahu in the cold will act as a boomerang, as Shamir sets the tone in the government today, to say nothing of Israel's relations with the United States. Shamir also intends to run at the head of the Likud in the next election, and this is something that Levi better face up to fast.

Shamir on Effects of Crisis on Peace Initiative

TA1109185290 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Excerpt] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir has warned that if war breaks out in the Gulf, it is possible that Iraq may attack Israel. Shamir was speaking to the former prime minister of Norway, Kare Kristiansen, who is on a visit to Israel. Jack Katzenell reports:

The Norwegian leader asked Prime Minister Shamir how the Gulf crisis is likely to affect the Israeli peace initiative. I am optimistic, Shamir replied, but when the crisis is over, it will be easier for us to find partners among the Palestinians, and that the United States will not press us to involve the PLO. Shamir said Defense Minister Moshe Arens has experience in contacts with dignitaries from the territories and he feels there is more understanding and support among the Palestinians because they understand that by violence they will not achieve anything. There is less loss of life in the territories now, Shamir said. People are still being killed every night, not by our army, but by Arabs. [passage omitted]

Sees Two Forms of Possible Iraqi Attack

TA1109142690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1400 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir said that Iraq may try to attack Israel to prove to the Arab world that it is the only force capable of defeating Israel. He believes the attack could come in two forms: either via Jordan, or by bombing us. We are prepared for every eventuality, however, he said. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that the prime minister was talking to the former Norwegian prime minister.

Arens on Arab Military Buildup, U.S.-Syrian Ties

TA1109133390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1105 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens appeared today before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee. Arens said that Israel's strategic position in the world and region had improved. Nevertheless, he expressed concern regarding the military buildup of the Arab countries. Ze'ev Kohen, our Knesset affairs correspondent, sums up today's session.

[Begin recording] [Kohen] Israel's standing in the region and throughout the world is growing stronger, asserted Defense Minister Moshe Arens, and its strategic situation has improved. Commenting on Israel's qualitative edge with regard to the kind of weapons purchased overseas, Arens stated that the gap has narrowed. The Arabs are buying everything, he said, but we have developed several unique systems, such as the Arrow missile. Israel, however, is facing a severe budget crunch which makes it difficult for us to equip ourselves with the very systems we develop. We therefore wish to increase the shekel component of the U.S. aid package. The defense minister will leave for the United States on 15 September and will meet U.S. Defense Secretary Cheney. Arens hopes to consolidate some agreements. I asked the defense minister whether the rapprochement between the United States and Syria is to the detriment of Israel.

[Arens] No, I think it is part of the coalition the United States is setting up against Saddam Husayn's aggression. This coalition has an important Arab component: Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Syria.

[Kohen] Is it possible that the United States may try to bring about warmer relations or the launching of negotiations between Israel and Syria?

[Arens] This could happen in the future. I believe that the United States is currently totally focused on the Persian Gulf crisis and on the best way to handle Saddam Husayn's aggression.

[Kohen] The members of the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee wanted to discuss the Ostrovsky affair [former Mosad operative who recently wrote a book in Canada severely criticizing Mosad practices]. Acting Chairman Binyamin Begin said that the appropriate subcommittee would deal with the matter. The defense minister reported an improvement in the situation in the territories, stating that this certainly does not stem from lack of action. He added, however, that the situation is still not quiet, and suggested that we not delude ourselves by believing that the Palestinian problem will go away.

Arens Expects 'Significant' Military Aid From U.S.

TA1109192090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Defense Minister Moshe Arens says he expects significant additional military aid from the United States in light of the Gulf crisis. The defense minister told the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee today that Israel's financial problems are preventing it from supplying the Army with equipment Israel itself is developing. Arens travels to the United States this weekend, his second visit in two months. More from reporter David Ze'ev:

[Begin recording] [Ze'ev] Defense Minister Moshe Arens leaves for the United States Saturday night. He was invited by a Washington institute, but expects to meet with U.S. Defense Secretary Dick Cheney. Arens was last in the U.S. capital less than two months ago, two weeks before the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, and the two men discussed the potential threat then posed by Saddam Husayn. Now that the U.S. Administration has been providing Arab states with arms in exchange for their role in the Gulf crisis, and Israel has remained quietly in the background, Arens wants what he calls significant help for Israel, and he intends to get it.

[Arens] Well, we are in contact with the Government of the United States and have presented our imminent defense needs that have become much more apparent in the present circumstances, and we do expect that there would be significant additional assistance in the military field by the United States to Israel.

[Ze'ev] Arens says Foreign Minister David Levi seems to have been successful in his efforts to get the current Israeli military debt owed to the United States canceled. Now he will continue where the foreign minister left off, by calling for the additional assistance.

After his appearance today at the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee, Arens was also asked about the report that U.S. President George Bush told Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev at Sunday's summit he is willing to give the Soviet Union a greater role in the Arab-Israeli peace process and would even reconsider the idea of an international conference if the Soviets help the United States in the Gulf effort.

[Arens] I don't know if these reports are accurate. What is clear to me is that the United States, and I think the Soviet Union as well, at the present time are focusing all their attention on the problem that faces the world today, namely the aggressive behavior of the Iraqi dictator, Saddam Husayn.

[Ze'ev] Arens says he sees U.S. Secretary of State James Baker's visit to Syria in the coming days as no more than a move to strengthen the Arab coalition against Iraq and as having very little to do with Israel. [end recording]

Peres Sure of U.S. Victory in Gulf Crisis

TA1109204290 Jerusalem Israel Television Network in Arabic 1730 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Interview with Labor Party Chairman Shim'on Peres by Robert Dassa on 11 September, place not given—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Text] [Peres] The Gulf crisis will end with a U.S. victory. Let there be no mistake about it. The Americans have a distinct advantage on three levels: On the political level, they enjoy the broadest international coalition ever; on the economic level, they can impose an effective blockade on Iraq; and on the military level they have clear and unmistakable superiority, so that the United States can use each one of these categories separately, or jointly. I do not think the United States will allow Saddam Husayn to continue to conduct Kuwait's affairs, or for that matter even Iraq's affairs, because it will not tolerate a situation in which 20 percent of the world's oil will be in the hands of a dictator—this would be foolish; it can cause inflation and unemployment—and will likewise not permit Baghdad to host a man who will each time threaten someone else: once Kuwait, another time Saudi Arabia.

[Dassa] What is your opinion of the support of some Palestinian Arabs for Saddam Husayn in the current crisis?

[Peres] I think that it is a fatal mistake. 'Arafat is the Palestinian tragedy, not an Israeli one. He is again leading the Palestinian cause into a dead end. Saddam will lose, and with him also 'Arafat. I think Saddam has pushed the Palestinian issue to the sidelines. I believe he has disgraced the Arab world by playing games with the hostages, women and children—while the Arabs have always been known for their hospitality. I think that a dictator is a dictator, be he Arab, Romanian, Russian, or German. Dictators have no future. The world will not tolerate them.

Proposed Israeli-Syrian Meeting Termed 'Canard'

TA1209111090 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 12 Sep 90 p 1

[Report by the Arab affairs correspondent]

[Excerpts] The United States is trying to achieve a political conciliation between Syria and Israel by setting up a meeting between the foreign ministers of both countries, with the participation of their U.S. and Egyptian counterparts.

During his visit to Syria at the end of the week, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will try to get the Syrian foreign minister's agreement to such a meeting. This was reported yesterday evening by Mustafa Baqri, Radio Monte Carlo's correspondent in Cairo. Baqri claimed to base his report on knowledgeable Cairo sources. [passage omitted]

Hemi Shalev, DAVAR's political affairs correspondent, reports that Avi Pazner, the prime minister's media adviser, said in reaction: "I believe that this is another Radio Monte Carlo canard." A Foreign Ministry spokesman stated that the report does not even warrant any comment. Political sources added that Radio Monte Carlo's correspondents "have not been noted for their veracity recently," and they cite as an example the station's report about the Egyptian foreign minister's statement on Israeli-Egyptian armored clashes in the Sinai Peninsula that was broadcast several months ago. [passage omitted]

Shamir's Office on Possible SHAS Withdrawal

TA1109120090 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The Minister Der'i affair: The Prime Minister's Office does not believe that the SHAS [Torah Observing Sephardim] movement will withdraw from the government and the coalition because of the interior minister's interrogation. Sources in Shamir's office told our political correspondent Arye Golan that there will be no intervention into the police investigation. Our political correspondent has also learned that there is no connection between the investigation which, so it is hoped, will conclude soon, and the political partnership between the Likud and SHAS, which was defined as good and important.

In the meantime, Yosef 'Azran, a SHAS Knesset member and the deputy finance minister, has stated that his party does not intend to withdraw from the government. At the same time, Rabbi 'Azran says there is a great deal of anger over the leaks from the police investigation which, so he demands, should be conducted in a discreet manner.

The police spokesman firmly rejected Yosef 'Azran's charges. The spokesman emphasized that no official police element is behind the publications containing details from the interrogations, and that the police are conducting the present investigation in a professional and matter-of-fact manner, just as it does other investigations.

Hamas Threatens Expulsion of Fatah Men From Camp

TA1109193690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1800 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, has threatened to move Fatah activists from the Tulkarm refugee camp. The latest Hamas pamphlet followed violent clashes in the camp and surrounding villages over the last few days. More details from Mark Weiss:

The ideological differences between Fatah and Hamas, the Islamic Resistance Movement, are not new, but this week's clashes in the Tulkarm area, in which 10 people were injured, a number of them seriously, marked the most open feuding between the two groups to date. A Hamas pamphlet distributed in Tulkarm refugee camp today said Fatah will be kicked out of the camp. The pamphlet accused Fatah of turning the intifadah against the Palestinian people, failing in its struggle in Israel, offending the Muslim religion, extorting local residents, and of misusing funds.

The Unified Uprising Leadership also issued a statement today on the dispute. They accused Hamas of serving Israeli interests by stirring up internal conflicts.

The Fatah-backed Unified Leadership accused Hamas activists of a number of attacks against Fatah and Communist Party supporters in the Gaza Strip in addition to the event in Tulkarm. The pamphlet said any attack against a PLO faction is an attack against the Uprising Leadership.

'Hasty' Decision To Transfer Arab League Decried

JN1109174090 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic 11 Sep 90 p 1

[Editorial: "Another Blow to the Arab Order"]

[Text] The meeting held by several Arab foreign ministers in Cairo yesterday, recently initiated by some parties with a view to making a few petty gains and achieving objectives which we believe have nothing to do with Arab interests, was another divisionist step taken along the road of bringing down the Arab order.

The haste with which the decision to move Arab League headquarters was made under these difficult Arab circumstances shows that the gain attained is meager if compared with the certain considerable loss that this Arab organization and joint Arab action as a whole stand to incur.

It seems that those who met in Cairo yesterday decided to move the League headquarters even though they knew that they were actually moving the remains of this regional organization. They showed no consideration whatsoever for the grave damage that such a measure will inflict on the League. Such a move will kill what remains of this organization's respectability and credibility.

Those who have taken this step are aware of the dangers that this move poses to the Arab order, particularly considering that the fragile majority that passed this resolution cannot conceal the absence of major Arab states from these meetings, which should demonstrate a considerable political and moral legal issue.

In view of all this, we believe that the real beneficiary of these meetings was the U.S.-led Western alliance, especially considering that these meetings actually managed to provide a false Arab cover for the occupation of oil wells in the Gulf and the eastern Arabian Peninsula.

We wanted to use this rostrum to urge the Arabs [meeting in Cairo] to heed the voice of reason and to allow Arab wisdom to prevail. Now that we are seeing strange and peculiar developments, we realize that such calls on our part are being swept by a wind that has poisoned minds, wrecked consciences, and caused wisdom to vanish into thin air.

King Cables Klibi on Resignation

JN1109121790 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] His Majesty King Husayn has deeply regretted Chedli Klibi's decision to resign as Arab League secretary general. In a cable to Klibi today, his majesty affirmed that Jordan will always remember Klibi's honest role and persistent and well-known efforts to perform his duty in the best possible manner. The following is the text of the cable:

Your Excellency brother Chedli Klibi, the Arab League, Tunis: I extend to you my sincerest love and appreciation. I have received with deep regret your decision to resign as Arab League secretary general, because you were at the level of the trust you were carrying and the duty you were performing during your term of office. These eventful years were replete with the services you rendered to the Arab nation and the Arab League. This proves the depth of your pan-Arab affiliation and your honest concern about preserving the Arab League as a successful establishment.

As you insist on your resignation, I would like to affirm to you that I, my country, and my people will always remember your honest role and your well-known and persistent efforts to carry out your duty in the best possible manner. I extend to you my thanks and appreciation as well as those of my people and the Jordanian Government and wish you every success, trusting that you will be among those who honestly serve their nation's goals and ideals. Peace be upon you.

[Signed] Your brother al-Husayn Ibn-Talal.

Continued Political Mediation Efforts Affirmed

JN1109140990 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 10 Sep 90 pp 1, 20

[By the AL-RA'Y political affairs editor]

[Text] Amman—A high-ranking Jordanian source has stressed Jordan's adherence to the UN resolutions and its continued implementation of all resolutions on Middle East issues. The source said Jordan is seeking to effect international legitimacy, consolidate the status of the United Nations, and strengthen it to enable it to achieve the requirement of reinforcing world peace, so that it will not be replaced by other powers that work separately to resolve international issues, attempt to achieve their own interests, and impose the hegemony of big powers on smaller regional powers in the world.

The source voiced confidence that His Majesty King Husayn will continue his active role in cooperation with independent Arab leaders to find a practical Arab formula enjoying international support to defuse the grave Gulf crisis. He said Jordan will continue efforts to find this Arab formula, which will maintain the rights of all concerned parties in a fair and permanent manner .

The source affirmed that to achieve this, contacts will continue between the Jordanian leadership and Arab brothers who maintain different tendencies and policies.

The source portrayed the picture that will prevail in the Arab homeland in the wake of the Gulf crisis and its consequences, and the ensuing disastrous situation if a military conflagration takes place, God forbid, which is in nobody's interest.

He said: Any settlement of the Gulf crisis must take place within the Arab framework, with effective international support. He said such a solution must not occur by yielding to threats of foreign forces deployed on Arab land, since any solution passed under the armed threat of powers having armies on Arab land will destroy the entire Arab order and pan-Arab security.

While Jordan is seeking to achieve this objective, Iraq has shown willingness for this since the crisis erupted. He said President Saddam Husayn's initiative calling for solutions to all the Middle East crises is still valid.

He said among the basic causes of the Gulf crisis are border problems and development issues. While we were talking about $5 billion for the Arab development decade in the eighties, we see some persons ready to pay $6 billion in cash to finance the foreign military presence in the Gulf. Therefore, any formula for a solution must stem from the causes of the crisis on the Arab level, and any discussion should not be confined to the consequences of the crisis itself.

The Jordanian source reviewed the history and developments of the crisis. He explained Jordan's immense efforts, first to prevent the explosion of the crisis, and second, to contain it within the Arab framework after it took place.

Concluding his statement, the Jordanian source reviewed the problems faced by Jordan as a result of its commitment to the embargo resolutions, as well as the severe economic problems resulting from the Gulf crisis.

He also said Jordan is seeking a just, peaceful solution to the Gulf crisis within the Arab framework. Therefore, Jordan is in touch with all parties to the crisis.

Responding to a question by AL-RA'Y on remarks attributed to His Majesty King Husayn recently, the Jordanian source ridiculed these rumors, saying that Jordanian morals and his majesty's stands and relations of amity and brotherhood with all Arab leaders rebut such rumors. He said those who fabricated minutes of meetings and attributed some statements to Jordanian officials are known to us. He said those people work to disturb the atmosphere and spread distrust regarding the Gulf crisis. They also continuously work to disturb relations between Jordan and its Arab sister states in order to obstruct the achievement of a just, comprehensive settlement to the crisis. The source said this does not affect Jordan, however, which will continue its efforts to achieve the noble Arab objectives.

Saudi Media Accused of 'Falsifying' Facts

JN1109182590 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 9 Sep 90 p 20

["Just an Opinion" column by Khalid Mahadin: "Ours Is Not a Glass House; We Have Plenty, Plenty of Stones!"]

[Text] The brothers in Saudi television know, like others or probably more, that our house is not made of glass and that we have plenty of stones. In our press, radio, and television, however, we are committed to sincerity and concern for the truth. We do not like to throw stones at others' glass houses.

If the brothers in Saudi television and the press do not want to understand our position, that is their right which we fully appreciate, because under democracy we do not ban free expression of opinion, cut off tongues, gag mouths, or prevent people from reading newspapers that curse us. The Jordanian reader has a guaranteed right to read what is said about his country, leadership, and people, and even to consider that a subject for entertainment.

Saudi television continues its hints and insinuations against our country. It completely falsifies facts when it talks about the way our people and authorities treat those arriving form Iraq and Kuwait, without referring to their governments' abandonment of them and disregard of their suffering. Among those arriving are many Muslims toward whom the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia should share with us the special responsibility of looking after them. The matter did not stop at falsifying facts, but went beyond that to distort them. This occurred when Saudi television said that some of the arrivals died of starvation because we did not supply them with food, of thirst because we did not supply them with water, or of illness becaue we did not provide them with medicine, although we are providing them with all these things without having plenty food, water, or medicine, without daily pumping millions of barrels of oil from our oil wells, and without withdrawing several hundred million dollars from our astronomical accounts.

If we have been so inhumane and uncommitted to our responsibility as a Muslim country toward Muslim or even non-Muslim brothers, and if we have withheld bread, water, medicine, or good treatment from those arriving across the border from Iraq and Kuwait, why does Saudi television not take the initiative and submit the Islamic solution, which calls on the able to open their borders to the returnees, take care of them, and ensure their repatriation to their Islamic and non-Islamic states?

That is what we would like to say to Saudi television. As for the Saudi press, we would only like to say that our house is not made of glass, and that we have plenty of stones. Our Arab morals and Islamic characteristics, however, do not permit us to reciprocate an offense. We can do that if we choose to depart from these morals and traits. We know that our stones are fatal if thrown, yet we have not and will not do so unless we realize that there is persistence in harming our country, leadership, and people according to a premeditated plan. Then we will disclose everything in our records. Peace be upon those who follow the right path.

House Speaker, Others on Coping With Refugees

JN1209064490 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 11 Sep 90 p 3

[By Caroline Faraj, special to the JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Amid growing concern over the influx of evacuees arriving here from Iraq and Kuwait and the strain on Jordan's resources in the course of feeding and accommodating the tens of thousands of expatriates, a call has been made by the Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament to close the border and put an end to the flow of people until arrangements have been made for their repatriation.

"Jordan is a small nation with very limited resources and facing difficult economic conditions that don't permit it shoulder such an enormous task, therefore the border posts should be closed until further notice," Sulayman 'Arar said in an interview with Al-RA'Y and JORDAN TIMES newspapers.

"Since countries whose nationals are stranded in the desert and the camps are not really concerned about their safety, why should Jordan be made to bear the consequences," 'Arar asked.

He said the expatriates could have gone home through other means and other borders saving Jordan a great deal of unneeded burden.

Having to put up and feed more than 90,000 nationals, Jordan has been seeking help from international organisations whose contributions have been late to come as was admitted by French Minister of State for Humanitarian Affairs Bernard Kouchner in Amman last week.

An Italian journalist, who had visited the evacuees centres in al- Ruwayshid, said that international organisations were wasting their time and effort by trying to care for the evacuees in makeshift tents instead of spending all the money on transporting them to their countries.

"According to estimates the cost of transporting the evacuees to their home countries amounts to $46 million, but much more funds are needed for feeding and accommodating the expatriates," the journalist said.

Officials at the Ministry of Supply said that the continuous drain on the country's food resources is causing the ministry a nightmare. They say Jordan offers nearly 100,000 meals of bread, milk, cheese and vegetables every day to the evacuees but, of course, part of this food comes through the relief organisations. Yet, this continued process is placing a heavy strain on the country and depletes the stocks in the markets since some of the relief organisations buy their needs locally.

Sources at the Jordanian Ports Corporation told this reporter that no vessels laden with food supplies are scheduled to dock at al-'Aqabah between now and the end of the year since the Ministry had assumed that its stocks should suffice the Kingdom for several months.

According to ministry sources three camps of evacuees housing 56,000 people consumes 180,000 loaves of bread on a daily basis, provided by the Ministry of Supply's bakeries.

Jordan has been providing medical services and health care to the evacuees through mobile medical units and ambulances and medical teams under very difficult climatic conditions.

According to Jordan Medical Association (JMA) President Mamduh al- 'Abbadi, Jordan is threatened by an outbreak of epidemics as a result of the presence of hundreds of thousands of expatriates who live in unhygienic conditions.

"Concerned world organisations should move fast and prevent a human disaster since the co-existence of a multitude of inhabitants in sub-human conditions for a long time is bound to cause a dangerous health situation not only for these people but for Jordan as a whole," al-'Abbadi said.

He called for the closure of the border with Iraq to avert a catastrophe. Al-'Abbadi said that a number of Jordanian families have employed maids from among the evacuees in a bid to escape paying the required fees to the Jordanian authorities, but they failed to give proper attention to the health conditions of these maids.

According to the Ministry of Water and Irrigation each evacuee requires up to 40 litres of drinking water a day; assuming there are 100,000 expatriates in Jordan now, their total daily consumption is 10,000 cubic metres.

Most of the water is provided from Jordan's meagre water resources and according to estimates the total expatriates' needs accounts to two per cent of the total water production capacity, at the cost of JD 8,000 a day.

Economic Effects of Sanctions, Aid Examined

Business Sector

JN1209072390 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 12 Sep 90 p 3

[By Sirin Halasah, special to JORDAN TIMES]

[Text] Amman—Jordan, which has been going through an economic crisis for the past eighteen months is now rocked again by the recent Gulf crisis. Many economists in Jordan believe that the economy is in serious need for a long-term solution, especially if Jordan breaks all its economic ties with its neighbour Iraq, following the United Nations Security Council Resolution 661 that calls for a full embargo on Iraq for its August 2 invasion and annexation of Kuwait. Jordan thus is calling on the United Nations Security Council to be compensated in return for complying with the U.N. resolution.

According to the September issue of JORDAN ECONOMIC MONITOR, a monthly newsletter published by Fahd al-Fanik, Jordan stands to lose $200 million annually in commodity exports, $250 million annually in transit business and an increase in oil prices if it goes ahead with the embargo against Iraq.

As for the economic impact the severing of ties with Kuwait has on Jordan, this would include a loss of grants amounting to $135 million, a loss in proceeds from commodity exports to Kuwait amounting to $80 million annually, a return of close to 100,000 Jordanians working in Kuwait along with their families (350,000 with their families), and a loss of $320 million in remittances coming from Jordanian expatriates working in Kuwait.

In a memorandum sent by the Jordanian government to the Security Council on August 24, the government informed the Security Council that it stands to lose about $4 billion as a result of complying with United Nations Security Council resolutions.

Article 50 of the United Nations Charter allows countries that are affected by an embargo or blockade on another country to be compensated for that loss. So Jordan's hopes are based on the fact that compensation will be its only way out of this economic difficulty.

"In my opinion I think that if the compensation money as to be handed to the Jordanian government, it should immediately go to the Central Bank reserve in order to maintain and support the price of the Jordanian dinar and to stabilise the costs of exports," Tahir Kan'an, president of the Industrial Development Bank of Jordan, told the JORDAN TIMES. He also added that efforts should be placed on maintaining the current interest rates, "which are already below the normal rate of inflation."

Another suggestion on how to handle the aid money was made by a Jordanian businessman, Zaki M. al-Ayyubi, president of the United Automobiles Peugeot in Jordan. He suggested that the money be channelled through banks at reduced interest rates in order to encourage investors to invest in Jordan. "The Central Bank would compensate the banks for the reduced interest rates on their loans. Income tax should also be reduced by half to generate a strong motivation for ivnestment," al-Ayyubi said.

Another way to handle the aid money, should it be granted to the Jordanian government, is to form a foreign trade cooperation that will replace Iraq as the main importer of Jordanian products, and to start selling these products to many other Arab countries at low competitive prices," Mamduh Abu-Hassan, president of Jordanian Businessmen Association, said.

Another problem facing Jordan's economy is the rise of unemployment. "We should try to intensify activities in all respects, in order to absorb the high number of Jordanians who are currently unemployed," Kan'an said. He also referred to a contract that was signed earlier in September between the Industrial Development Bank and the government to finance small scale productive projects in order to increase productivity, create jobs and reduce unemployment.

According to a senior consultant at the Chamber of Industry, 'Ali al-Dajani, a meeting of all industrialists in Jordan was held in early September to discuss the recent crisis. It was proposed to form an emergency fund and a committee of five industrialists to assist the chamber board and to help manufacturers who are suffering due to the slowdown in activities. "I feel we are being penalised under false pretence that we are the main suppliers of Iraq," al- Dajani said.

"The losers in this crisis are Jordanian entrepreneurs who built this industry after hard work and with prospects of expanding exports," al-Dajani said. He also said that Jordan is also facing the problem of stranded goods. "Large quantities of Jordanian goods are being unloaded in ports of [all] over the world, for fear that these goods would go to Iraq. The shippers are thus wrongly applying a bill of trading that allows them to abandon their freight at any port because it is illegal to dock at the port of al-'Aqabah," al-Dajani said. The actions of the shippers inevitably lead to increasing costs of shipping on importers who have to reship the goods within thirty days of the unloading or else they would lose their rights to the goods.

Aside from the problems of unemployment and transit of goods, there is a problem of shortage of raw and intermediate material. "Right now we should look for new markets to supply us with the necessary materials and to serve as new markets for our goods, al-Ayyubi said.

Asked about his views for the economic future of Jordan, Abu-Hassan said that he was optimistic. "If our system is stabilised and cleaned of bureaucracy, Jordan can and will be an industrial country, because we have the human element and the geographic element and if they are well guided by objective and positive sets of rules, and handled by an analytical mentality then we will be able to pass through this crisis," Abu-Hassan said.

Agriculture Sector

JN1209094990 Amman SAWT AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Sep 90 Second Edition p 6

["Press Inquiry on the Sudden Problems Facing the Agricultural Sector" by the economic editor. The inquiry is published under the headlines: "Gulf, Lebanese Markets Partially, Then Totally Closed to Jordanian Cold Storage Trucks Carrying Vegetables During the Past Two Weeks. This Has Led to a Slump, Drop in Prices, and Big Losses," "The Current Crisis Will Affect Next Season and Some of the Big Dealers Were Forced To Quit the Central Market," "Jordanian Exporters Are Demanding Large Debts Reaching 1.5 Million Dinars From Vegetable Importers in Kuwait" and "Drop in the Exchange Rate of the Kuwaiti Dinar Made These Debts Lose Their Value"]

[Excerpt] Jordan's economy depends largely on agriculture, which is its largest source of foreign currencies. Growth in the agricultural sector has picked up speed and registered greater productivity during the past two decades. This improvement is linked to several basic factors, mainly the expansion of consumer markets for Jordanian agricultural products in the Arab Gulf and Saudi Arabia.

The various parties involved in the agricultural production process—namely, farmers, exporters, and marketers—have prepared themselves for a market economy which is influenced by this expansion as well as the following main considerations:

1. The agricultural season in Jordan which differs from those in the regions of the consuming and importing countries.

2. The good quality of Jordanian agricultural products.

3. The easy and speedy transportation.

4. The availability of a fleet of cold storage trucks for transportation.

5. The continuous dealing with Jordanian exporters has created a good atmosphere which is further strengthened by the big deals that have been concluded with the Jordanian agricultural market.

For these considerations, Jordanian agricultural exports have picked up speed and increased in quantity. Consequently, investment in agriculture has expanded, turning the agricultural sector into a scientific agricultural industry through the use of hothouses, greenhouses, and drip irrigation. As a result of this expansion, there are now 364 major agricultural projects covering thousands of donums in the eastern regions of Jordan, especially al-Mafaq, Ziziya, al-Dalil, the Jordan Valley, Jerash, and other regions on which hundreds of thousands of dinars have been spent. When the local consumer market could not absorb the produce, efforts had to be made to find new markets, especially in the Gulf.

When the Gulf crisis erupted, its big damaging effect on the Jordanian agricultural economy began to appear. The first manifestations of this damage are the large debts demanded by Jordanian exporters who exported their products to Kuwait. According to some Central Market sources, these debts amount to 1.5 million dinars. There is also the damaging effect of the sharp drop in the exchange rate of the Kuwaiti dinar.

To this we should add the prices of products that have already been exported but that could not reach their destinations and therefore spoiled on the way. And although Jordanian exporters continue to export to the Saudi and Gulf markets, we should still consider the psychological impact of the crisis on certain importers who deal in Jordanian agricultural products. They are selling Jordanian products cheaply. Cold storage trucks have also not been able to reach their destinations in the past few days. Due to these considerations, many Jordanian exporters have simply refrained from exporting their products to the Gulf markets during the past 20 days.

To this we should add the difficulty Jordanian exporters are encountering in traveling to the Gulf region because of the refusal of some Gulf countries to grant them entry visas enabling them to follow up their trade and search for better markets. The cut in exports and the disappearance of the Kuwait market has led to a slump in the local market. [passage omitted]

Al-'Aqabah Port Activity Down

JN1109153490 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Najm al-Din al-Tawalibah dispatch from al-'Aqabah]

[Excerpts] For more than a week, the al-'Aqabah passenger port has not seen the crowd it saw today. This means that the frequency of arrivals continues, although it goes up and down. According to al-'Aqabah border director Lieutenant Colonel Muhammad al-Rusan, 4,766 Egyptians and 210 cars left for Egyptian ports yesterday aboard six ferries. [passage omitted]

Engineer 'Awad al-Tall, director general of the Ports Establishment, said that activity in al-'Aqabah port has decreased by 40 to 45 percent compared with activity during the past months. This has had a direct effect on the port's revenues, and consequently on Jordan's general income and tourism in particular, he added. In an interview with Japanese television held a short while ago, Mr. al-Tall said al-'Aqabah port is open to Jordanian imports and to the export of Jordanian phosphate, potash, and cement. He said rumors about the closure of al-'Aqabah port are groundless.

TIMES Lauds Outcome of Helsinki Summit

JN1009110890 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 10 Sep 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Summit on Track"]

[Text] A hint of where the superpower summit was heading, and what it was likely to produce, came from the U.S. Secretary of State on Saturday. It was then, for the first time since Aug. 2 perhaps, that a senior Bush administration official talks openly about the need for a political settlement to the Gulf crisis. A clearer indication of political rather than military solution had of course been sent by the Soviets earlier. The result, a dominance of the Baker-Soviet factor in the Helsinki summit, and a triumph for common sense over demagogy and militarism.

Helsinki's is the sort of outcome that sensible and reasonable people would have hoped for, but which jingoists loathed and will probably continue to reject.

Presidents Bush and Gorbachev did well to give peace a chance. That phrase was nearly forgotten or ignored by those who had been advising the U.S. president on the best course to take on the Iraqi take-over of Kuwait, including Mrs. Thatcher herself. We wonder whether the British prime minister lost any sleep last night thinking about an alternative outcome that would have had the Iraqi president defeated on the battlefield instead of having to deal with him politically.

The agreement on the "political settlement" clause between the two superpowers is naturally the highlight of the summit. For us here in Jordan at least, this is what Jordanian diplomacy has been trying to achieve from the outset. In fact, His Majesty King Husayn had no greater preoccupation or aim than to impress on the Americans the urgent need to go for a political solution when he went to see President Bush in mid-August. We have come a long way since then, and we cannot be but relieved that the Jordanian position has again been vindicated. The first glimmer of hope was of course seen in the light of the U.N. secretary-general's visit to Amman and his talks with Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz earlier this month.

There are other important areas of agreement that have emerged from the summit as well. The resort to the U.N.—and not to unilateral action—in case negotiations with Baghdad prove difficult is one of these areas. Not sending Soviet troops to the region, and allowing for food and medicine supplies to Iraq are yet two other positive contributions that the summit has made to the cause of peace.

Surely the meeting between the leaders of the two great powers could have gone further to help the cause of peace in this region. It could have expended a greater effort towards linking the Gulf crisis to the Israeli occupation of Arab lands for instance. But one cannot have it all—at once.

The fact that the summit has started a process of pulling people back from the brink, and towards dialogue, remains the most important and promising. The Western media, in its dispatches from Helsinki yesterday, may not have wanted to see it that way, but that is their prerogative. What matters to us is the substance and outcome of the talks. The former we have to wait for more details on. The latter, however, is positive and can be built on.

British Development Minister Arrives, in Amman

JN1209063290 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic 2000 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Lynda Chalker, British minister for overseas development, arrived in Amman this evening. In a press statement, Chalker said that the purpose of her visit to Jordan is to supervise British aid to those arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait and to estimate their need for additional aid. She said that her country intends to provide more aid to help the relevant Jordanian authorities overcome this problem as the number of those arriving in Jordan from Iraq and Kuwait is expected to increase. She added that this problem must be dealt with systematically.

Al-Huss Returns From Cairo Arab League Meeting

NC1109173490 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1700 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Prime Minister Dr. Salim al-Huss returned to Beirut at 1630 today from Cairo where he attended the extraordinary meeting of the Arab foreign ministers. He also delivered a speech in which he sounded the alarm and called on the Arab states to cooperate with the Arab tripartite committee and provide urgent aid to Lebanon to stop the present deterioration in the situation, particularly on the economic level.

Israeli Forces Shell Hizballah Base, Jarju'

NC1109113190 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1030 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Today security sources in the South reported that this morning the Israeli occupation forces fired 40 artillery rounds at Birkat Jabbur south of the al-Biqa' plain. The Israeli forces also shelled a Hizballah base in al-Luwayzah in the Iqlim al-Tuffah hills.

The agent militia's radio confirmed the Israeli shelling of Birkat Jabbur and al-Luwayzah area. The Islamic Resistance Front said that its positions in Jarju' township came under artillery fire from the positions of the Israeli occupation forces and their agents in Mlikh this morning.

Joint Force Closes FRC Offices in Sidon

NC1109202290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] A joint force from the Nasirite Popular Organization and the Islamic Group started to close the offices of Fatah Revolutionary Council [FRC] in Sidon this evening. The first stage of the operation involved the FRC's offices in al-Dalla'ah Street.

Partisan key figures are expected to hold a meeting in Sidon tomorrow to review the steps made today toward closing the armed offices and to discuss the continuation of the open-ended strike in protest of the recent inter-Palestinian clashes.

Hizballah Issues Statement on Sidon Fighting

NC1209062590 (Clandestine) Voice of the Oppressed in Arabic to Lebanon 0530 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] Hizballah has issued a statement on the events which occurred in the Sidon camps. It said: In light of the regrettable and destructive fighting in Sidon and its surroundings and the bombardment of the town and its various quarters and in view of the possible outbreak of fighting which could endanger our kinfolk in the town which represents the gate of the steadfast South, we voice our strong support for brother Engineer Mustafa Sa'd and his brothers in the Nasirite Popular Organization and all of Sidon's key Islamic and nationalist forces.

In its statement, Hizballah added: While we support their wise stand, we place all our capabilities at their disposal to end the infighting which threatens the security of our kinfolk in Sidon and its environs as well as the security of the Palestinian people in the camps.

Hizballah went on to say in its statement: We reiterate the need to spare Sidon any fighting which would only benefit the Zionist enemy and its agents. We urge all sides to keep this town an example for a peaceful coexistance among all the various Islamic and nationalist factions.

Cholera Victims Reported in Tripoli, Other Areas

NC1209085190 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic 0715 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The cholera epidemic continues to threaten the life of citizens in the North despite the operations to combat the epidemic and the state of emergency that was declared by the competent authorities there.

Citizen Hasan Hafizah died two days ago. Five new cases were reported in Tripoli and 'Akkar, and seven others were transfered to the al-Islami and al-Mullah hospitals. Two more cases were taken to the government hospital in al-Qubbah and one to the al-Mazlum hospital.

Bangladesh

Embassy in Kuwait To Close; Ershad To Visit Turkey

BK1109162290 Dhaka Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Bangladesh has decided to suspend operations of its embassy in Kuwait and withdraw its ambassador and the diplomatic staff. A spokesman of the foreign office said in Dhaka this afternoon that the decision has been taken as it is no longer possible to carry out legitimate functions, including consular service, in helping Bangladeshi nationals stranded. He, however, emphasized that the decision will in no way imply an interruption of the diplomatic relations between Bangladesh and the State of Kuwait. Bangladesh continues to recognize the government of Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah as the sole legitimate government of Kuwait. The spokesman continued that Bangladesh condemns and rejects without reservation the annexation of Kuwait to Iraq. He added that the principled position of Bangladesh is in full accord with the UN Security Council resolution.

He informed six buses sent from Baghdad to Kuwait returned today to the Iraqi capital with about 150 Bangladeshi nationals who include embassy staff, members of their families and some Bangladesh Air Force personnel. Ambassador K.M. Shihabuddin and his family, four other diplomats, and five undiplomatic staff have stayed back in Kuwait.

The spokesman said Bangladesh nationals who are still in Kuwait and Iraq can now avail of increased flights back home from Amman as evacuees [words indistinct]. Our representative understands 15,150 stranded Bangladeshi nationals are back home from the Middle East till today.

President Ershad leaves Dhaka tomorrow for Turkey to see for himself the evacuation of Bangladeshis stranded in that country. Foreign Minister Anisul Islam Mahmud will accompany him. A foreign office spokesman said the president will have talks with Turkish President Turgut Ozal in Ankara. Evacuation of Bangladesh nationals and the gulf crisis are expected to dominate the talks. President Ershad will visit [name indistinct]—camp on Iraqi-Turkey border. Many Bangladeshis have gathered in no-man's-land between Iraq and Turkey and inside Turkey from Kuwait.

Iraq Offers To Fly Bangladeshis, Indians Home

BK1209011890 Hong Kong AFP in English 2122 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 11 (AFP)—Bangladesh Tuesday said it was awaiting details of an Iraqi Airways offer to operate 10 flights to Dhaka via New Delhi to ferry stranded Bangladeshis and Indians home from Baghdad. The offer came in the form of a request Monday from Iraqi civil aviation authorities to their counterparts in Bangladesh asking for landing and overflight rights in Bangladesh for the proposed 10 round trip flights, government spokesman Mustafizur Rahman said.

Bangladesh's ambassador in Baghdad has been asked to find out the details of the offer from the Iraqi Foreign Ministry, Mr. Rahman said, adding that a decision would be taken after that. The proposed flights would carry both Bangladesh and Indian refugees and would first land in New Delhi.

The Iraqi authorities also indicated that if it was willing to do so Bangladesh could also send food and medical supplies for its remaining nationals by the return flights. Also Tuesday a special Air France flight arrived here with 490 Bangladesh nationals from Jordan, officials at Zia International Airport said. They said the aircraft travelled via Egypt and Pakistan before arriving here.

The French Embassy in Dhaka said the flight was an additional part of Paris' efforts along with other members of the European Economic Community to help evacuate refugees from Jordan. The aircraft will make four more flights carrying a total of 2,250 Bangladeshis from Amman.

Dhaka has repeatedly appealed for help in evacuating its nationals stranded in Saudi Arabia, Jordan and Turkey after fleeing from Kuwait and Iraq after Baghdad's invasion of the oil-rich emirate August 2. Some 75,000 Bangladesh nationals were employed in Kuwait prior to the invasion and 25,000 in Iraq.

Nationals Returning From Gulf Cite Iraqi Abuse

BK1209045890 London BBC World Service in English 0215 GMT 12 Sep 90

[From the "Newsreel" program]

[Text] As the airlift of Asians stranded in Jordan continues, Bangladeshis are arriving in the country and reporting cases in which they have been abused by Iraqis—in at least one case, because of their government's participation in the international forces in Saudi Arabia. (Jonathan Birdshaw) has visited one of the camps from the Jordanian desert frontier which is now exclusively housing Bangladeshi evacuees.

[Begin (Birdshaw) recording] At least one group of 200 Bangladeshis entered Jordan from Iraq on Monday [10 September] and joined more than 5,000 others now waiting at the mercy camp. The group included about 50 people who had been employed in a textile factory in Iraq—just some of the 15,000 Bangladeshis working in Iraq before the invasion of Kuwait. They said that they had been summoned by the manager of the plant and given a lecture about Bangladesh's decision to send troops to join the international forces in Saudi Arabia. Then they were dismissed and taken to the border.

They and others entering Jordan said the Iraqis had taken everything they had and had punched and manhandled them at the border crossing. The Foreign Ministry in Dhaka has already said that it is gravely concerned about its citizens in Iraq, and has accused the Iraqi authorities of cutting much of the food supplied to them.

Meanwhile, just over 2,000 Bangladeshis were airlifted out of Amman on Monday and the number will rise to 2,500 on each of the next two days. But there is growing anger among the Bangladeshis still stranded at the special mercy camp; they feel they have been forgotten. There are also complaints that the food supplies—bread, cucumbers, and tomatoes—are insufficient, and several thousand blankets have not been distributed because the Bangladeshis won't agree to return them when they leave. The authorities have been concentrating on moving people out of the notorious Shalaan I camp where conditions are still very bad. But Bangladeshi officials in Amman say they are pressing for permission to begin moving people into transit camps in Amman and out of the desert, as thousands of other Bangladeshis in Amman fly out. [end recording]

French Plane To Evacuate Stranded Nationals

BK0809133890 Dhaka Overseas Service in English 1230 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] France will make available another Boeing 747 to airlift Bangladeshi nationals, who have crossed to Jordan from Kuwait and Iraq and are now stranded in Jordan. The decision of the French Government in this regard was communicated to Foreign Secretary Abul Ahsan, who is leading Bangladesh delegation to the second UN Conference on the LDC's [Less Developed Countries] now being held in Paris. The aircraft having a capacity of 450 seats will operate five flights from Amman to Dhaka beginning from Monday [10 September] next. This will be in addition to the French participation in the airlift operation under the European Community's framework.

Meanwhile, the foreign secretary has appealed to the international community for setting up a society to oversee and coordinate the repatriation of large number of people from the South Asian countries, including Bangladesh. He also called for taking a global effort for rehabilitating the dislodged people.

College Teachers Start Token Strike on Services

BK0909135490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1335 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Dhaka, Sept 9 (AFP)—Government college teachers stopped work Sunday nationwide in a token strike to press demands for better service facilities, an official here said.

The striking teachers abstained from taking classes for an hour in their colleges, according to the official from the Education Directorate which monitors government colleges. He added that no incidents had been reported.

The work stoppage, which will be extended to three hours daily by end of September, was called by the Bangladesh Government College Teachers Association representing some 7,000 teachers of 213 colleges, strikers said.

Their 18-point charter of demands included waiving rules providing written tests for promotion of teachers, filling in vacant posts for senior teachers and appointing government teachers in administrative posts in the education directorate.

The demands were under discussion, the official said without giving details.

The teachers' strike coincided with International Literacy Day on Saturday in this South Asian nation of 110 million people, of whom only 23 per cent are officially recognised as literate.

President Hussain Mohammad Ershad repeated in a message on the occasion his government's plan to ensure education for all by the year 2000, an objective critics say was impossible.

India

'Official' Statement on Helsinki Summit Reported

BK1209100990 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 0828 GMT 12 Sep 90

["Official spokesman's statement dated 11th Sept. 90 regarding Bush-Gorbachev Summit"—ISI headline]

[Text] We are glad that the joint statement issued at the end of the Bush-Gorbachev summit has addressed the question of food supplies in some detail. Among the many humanitarian issues which have been thrown up as a result of this crisis, the question of providing food for humanitarian purposes was uppermost in the minds of many countries including India. In this context, the EAM [External Affairs Minister] had written to Secretary of State James Baker and Foreign Minister Shevardnadze on the eve of this summit and had urged them to ensure that this question of food was taken up at the summit level. In a sense, we can take some credit that both presidents Bush and Gorbachev have recognised the enormous dimensions of this humanitarian problem. We feel this a most significant development because there had been a tendency in certain sections of the foreign press and amongst the leadership of certain countries to ignore this vital humanitarian issue. Thus, it would be recalled, for example, that our attempt to send a shipload of food was thwarted by warnings that our ships would be interdicted. The change represented by summit statement is, therefore, welcome.

We had observed that the summit has called for monitoring of food supplies by international agencies and the involvement of such agencies in the supply and distribution of foodstuffs. On this very same subject we had written to the UN about a week ago, but so far no action has been taken because of continuing informal discussions in the Sanctions Committee, where it is still being determined whether the food shortages have reached necessary proportion to warrant such a large scale operation to supply such essential requirements.

We also observe in the same context that the ICRC [International Committee of the Red Cross] has not taken an entirely helpful view because it has linked the repatriation of certain categories of nationals stranded in the area, with the supply of food, for humanitarian purposes. Having blended these two aspects of the problem into an integral whole, we are doubtful if the ICRC will be able to move forward with any great rapidity in this matter. It is our view that the question of food shortages must be isolated from the rest of the problems, with which the international community is confronted.

Another aspect that has not received sufficient attention at the summit level, is the repatriation of the nationals of countries like ours and the enormous costs that this operation is imposing upon us, and the fact that this will have an adverse impact on our economy. We feel it is the prime duty of the international community to come forward in a more forthright and more generous manner, to help needy countries in the vital humanitarian tasks in which they are engaged.

Further the summit statement does not touch upon the subject of economic problems, both short and long term, that countries like ours are facing consequent upon the loss of markets, sources of oil supplies and sources of foreign exchange through repatriation. Many countries, including ours, have approached the Sanctions Committee under Article-50 seeking assistance in this regard. Regrettably, the Sanctions Committee has taken a week to discuss only the fate of Jordan. If it moves at this snail's pace, it will not be possible to address in a meaningful, effective and urgent enough manner, the problems with which we have to cope. In this connection, we also note with some regret that certain countries are pressurising some of their allies to disburse aid only to those countries who have become an integral part of the operations, presently being mounted in the Gulf region. We are glad that the statement has expressed a preference for a peaceful resolution of the present crisis.

We are also glad to note that there has been a declaration that the foreign troops presently in the area would not stay any longer than is necessary. In this regard, we have noted that the joint statement calls for working out structures for regional stability and security. It is our firm conviction that arrangements for regional stability and security, can best be worked out by the countries of the region themselves. No stable structures can be achieved if they are forced upon the region by outside powers.

Spokesman Welcomes Outcome

BK1209032590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] India has welcomed the outcome of the Bush-Gorbachev summit on the Gulf crisis held at Helsinki on Sunday last. Speaking to newsmen in New Delhi yesterday, a spokesman of the External Affairs Ministry said India is happy about the joint statement dealing with the question of food supply to foreign nationals in Iraq and Kuwait in some detail. He said the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, had written to the the U.S. secretary of state and the Soviet foreign minister to ensure a discussion on this topic because the foreign press and leaders of certain countries have tended to ignore this vital issue.

Alleging unhelpful attitude on the part of the International Committee of the Red Cross, the spokesman said it had linked repatriation of some categories of foreign nationals with food supply. He reiterated India's view that the issue of food shortages in Iraq and Kuwait must be dealt with separately from the rest of the Gulf problem. The spokesman said India is happy over the Helsinki summit's desire for a peaceful settlement of the Gulf problem.

Commentary Praises Meeting

BK1109145590 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1010 GMT 11 Sep 90

[S. Venkatanarayan commentary]

[Text] The summit meeting between American President Mr. George Bush and his Soviet counterpart Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev in Helsinki on September the 9th is a historical event for more reasons than one. From the Indian point of view, of course, what will be welcomed with great relief is their decision to allow us to send food and medicines to more than 150,000 Indian nationals who are stranded in Kuwait and Iraq since Iraq occupied Kuwait on the 2d of August.

India has been lobbying for this for nearly a fortnight in major world capitals. The idea was resisted in the beginning by several Western countries. Now, that the two superpowers have cleared the idea, India has started sending food to its nationals with a clean conscience. Beginning yesterday, India will be airlifting 31 tons of food articles everyday for the next 15 days. These provisions will be flown to Amman as a gift from the Indian Government to the Government of Jordan in aircraft that are going to the Jordanian capital to bring home our stranded nationals. In addition, India has already airlifted nine tons of medicines to Amman yesterday. These provisions and medicines are meant for the 30,000-odd Indians who are either already in Amman or are on their way to that hospitable city for repatriation to India. What should also gladden Indian hearts is the fact that Mr. Gorbachev has openly acknowledged the role played by India and China in working out the Security Council resolutions on the Gulf crisis.

What is even more significant about the Bush-Gorbachev summit is that this is the first time in history that the leaders of the world's two most powerful countries put their heads together to figure out ways and means to a crisis that could verily lead to a bloody war. This has never happened before. The most immediate effect of this coordination between the two superpowers is that there is now no immediate danger of a war braking out in West Asia. The unprecedented joint statement issued at the end of the summit said and, I quote, we are united in the belief that Iraq's aggression must not be tolerated. No peaceful international order is possible if larger states can suppress their smaller neighbors, unquote.

Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev called upon the entire world community to adhere to the sanctions mandated by the United Nations. They pledged to work individually and in concert to ensure full compliance with the sanctions. Many people ask what if Iraqi president refuses to oblige the United Nations, the superpowers, and the rest of the world by pulling out his troops from Kuwait? Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev have not quite ignored that possibility. In their joint communique they have said, and I quote, our preference is to resolve the crisis peacefully and we will be united against Iraq's aggression as long as the crisis exists. However, we are determined to see this aggression ends and if the current steps failed to end it, we are prepared to consider additional ones consistent with the UN Charter. We must demonstrate beyond any doubt that aggression cannot and will not pay, unquote.

It is obvious that Mr. Bush and Mr. Gorbachev do not approve of Mr. Saddam Husayn's military adventure. They are telling him politely to vacate Kuwait and restore it to its own legitimate government. There simply is no scope for Mr. Husayn to indulge in any tomfoolery. If he refuses to vacate the aggression within a reasonable time frame, the superpowers may get together once again to review the situation. They may go for some drastic measures.

What is happening about the Bush-Gorbachev summit is that it will have a welcome effect on all regional conflicts the world over. The Cold War that broke out in 1946 after the end of the second world war is now over. If Vietnam has taught the Americans a lesson, Afghanistan has taught the Russians that military power is no more effective in solving regional conflicts. Even though President Bush rushed its troops to the Gulf soon after the Iraqi aggression, he was quick enough to realize that it is no use going to war. Which is why he took the initiative and sought a meeting with Mr. Gorbachev in a bid to involve the other superpower in the efforts to defuse the crisis in the Gulf. This may herald a new kind of international diplomacy in which the two superpowers will work together to defuse crisis in any part of the world. This will reduce the possibilities of war. This also offers guarantees for global peace. As such, the Helsinki summit deserves to be treated with warmth the world over.

PRC Leaders Stress Cooperation, Note Progress

BK1209053590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0435 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] According to an AICC-I [All India Congress Committee-I] delegation that returned from China, the Chinese leaders think the five principles of coexistence—Pancasila—alone can bring peace in Asia and the world. The leader of the delegation, AICC-I general secretary, Mr. Bal Ram Jakhar, told newsmen in New Delhi yesterday that Chinese leaders stressed the need for greater cooperation between India and China and noted a steady progress in the relation between the two countries.

Delhi Denies U.S. Navy Intercepted Indian Ship

BK1109160390 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] India today denied a report that the United States Navy had intercepted its ship carrying food and medicines and prevented it from proceeding to Kuwait. An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that the ship—Tipu Sultan—had set sail for Kuwait on the 1st of this month to ferry Indian repatriates. Tipu Sultan did not go to Kuwait and picked up 539 Indian nationals from Dubayy. It is expected to reach India in a day or two.

Israeli Offer To Evacuate Nationals Rejected

BK1109163090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] An External Affairs Ministry spokesman said in New Delhi today that India is of the view that the Iraqi offer to supply free oil to developing countries is a question to be decided by the United Nations Sanctions Committee. He said the committee has to address itself to the problem and arrive at a decision.

Replying to questions by newsmen, an official spokesman said India has rejected the Israeli offer to help repatriate stranded Indians in Kuwait and Iraq on geographical reasons.

New Delhi has urged the commonwealth to take action for supply of food and medicines to commonwealth citizens trapped in Kuwait and Iraq on an emergency basis and assist in their repatriation. This was conveyed to commonwealth Secretary General Mr. Emeka Anyaoku by the minister of state for external affairs, Mr. Harikishore Singh, and Foreign Secretary Mr. Muchkund Dubey at separate meetings.

In a significant move, Iraq has permitted a British diplomat to fly from Baghdad to Kuwait to help arrange evacuation of more British nationals. This is the first time that the British diplomat has been allowed to go to Kuwait since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait early last month.

Reports from Dubayy say that the Indian community in the Gulf has started large-scale voluntary efforts to provide relief materials to the stranded Indians in the Jordanian camps. The Indian community in Muscat has sent about 30 tons of drinking water to Dubayy for airlifting to Amman. In Bahrain also, the Indian Women's Association, in cooperation with other Indian agencies, is preparing to dispatch essential commodities for the refugees in Amman.

Plan Drawn Up To Resettle Returning Nationals

BK1209054090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] A plan is being drawn up to resettle and provide employment to Indians who are returning from Kuwait and Iraq. The union surface transport minister, Mr. K.P. Unnikrishnan, told newsmen in Dubayy yesterday that about 30,000 Indians who have returned home already will be helped to settle in India by the state governments concerned and the center. He said Air India will operate 14 flights, three more than at present, within a few days to repatriate Indians from Jordan. Mr. Unnikrishnan reiterated the government's determination to evacuate Indian nationals from Jordan in the shortest possible time. He denied that Indians in Kuwait and Iraq are starving, but admitted that essential goods in these two countries are indeed in short supply. India, he said, will rush food and medicines to Kuwait and Iraq as soon as the United Nations gives permission. Our Gulf correspondent, Avinash Goel, adds that Mr. Unnikrishnan, who was returning to New Delhi from Amman, said that the international community has not yet rendered much help to Jordan whose evacuees have gathered. [sentence as heard] India, on her part, is rushing medicines, blankets, and drinking water for them.

Singh Consults With Party Leaders on Punjab

BK1109152890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, continued the process of consultations with leaders of various political parties on Punjab today also. Mr. Singh met in New Delhi separately Mr. Tota Singh, president of Akali Dal-Barnala; Mr. Prakash Singh Badal and Captail Amrinder Singh, both leaders of Akali Dal-Badal; Mr. J.S. Talwandi, Talwandi group; Mr. J.S. Diwana, president of Janata Dal, Punjab unit; and Mr. Rajdev Singh, president of Akali Dal-Panthak.

The Congress-I president, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, was again invited for consultations by the prime minister at 1100 this morning, but he sent another letter seeking further clarifications. The prime minister in his reply today said the government is currently interacting with representatives of various political parties to make a full assessment of the situation, including their views on the issue of holding elections to the state assembly. Mr. V.P. Singh pointed out that his government has always believed that the people should have the opportunity to express themselves democratically. The prime minister again urged Mr. Gandhi to spell out his party's views regarding the holding of elections to the state assembly.

The president of the Akali Dal-Theruman group, Mahant Sewadas Singh, has appealed to all political parties to come together and solve the Punjab problem. He was speaking to newsmen in New Delhi today. He said elections to the Punjab Assembly should not be held until the situation improved.

Maoist Group Kidnaps Six in Andhra Pradesh

BK1109151290 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1430 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In Andhra Pradesh, the Naxalites [Maoist extremists] belonging to People's War Group have kidnapped six more persons, including three revenue officials and a branch manager of a bank, taking the tally of hostages to 15. The whereabouts of the kidnapped persons, including the Telugu Desam MLA [Member of Legislative Assembly], Mr. G. Rama Rao, and the Nalgonda District education officer, Mr. Subrahmanyam, are still not known. The director general of police, Mr. R. Prabhakar Rao, told our Hyderabad correspondent that the Naxalites are demanding the release of their activists.

Further Deaths in Reservation-Related Violence

BK1209043890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] In Uttar Pradesh, two persons were killed and several others injured in a clash between pro- and anti-reservationists in Moradabad District yesterday. According to the official report, the police had to open fire to disperse them.

In Himachal Pradesh, one more person, who was seriously injured in the police firing at Una on Thursday [6 September] last, succumbed to his injuries in a hospital. In Bihar also, two more persons have succumbed to their injuries in Nawada. They were injured during the bundh [strike] on Monday.

In Himachal Pradesh, all educational institutions in the tribal areas of the state such as Kinnaur, Lahoul Spiti, Bharmor and Bhangi of Chamba District will reopen today. The educational institutions in these areas were closed on the 3d of this month and were scheduled to reopen on the 17th.

Further on Killing of Militants in Kashmir Valley

BK1109164890 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In Kashmir Valley, twenty-one terrorists and a Border Security Force [BSF] jawan [soldier] were killed in an encounter early this morning near Village Dhone Kangan, about 35 km from Srinagar. An official spokesman told our Jammu correspondent that the security forces signaled a bus to stop for routine checking. The BSF jawan who opened the driver's cabin was fired upon and was killed on the spot by the terrorists travelling in the bus. The other members of the BSF party returned the fire, killing four of the militants. While the encounter was going on, there was a big explosion in the bus, gutting it completely. Seventeen charred bodies were recovered later. Four BSF jawans were also injured in the encounter. On search of the bus, a big quantity of damaged arms was found, which included six rockets and two rocket launchers, two universal machine guns, seven AK-47 rifles, 10 pistols, and one wireless set.

Our correspondent adds that the militants had apparently come from across the line of control after obtaining arms and ammunition and training in Pakistan-occupied Kashmir and had boarded the bus on the way to Srinagar with their arms and ammunition for terrorist activities.

The rail traffic, which was disrupted this morning due to damage to the rail track by a powerful explosion at Jammu Railway Station, was restored by midday today. The trains which had been detained at Bari Brahmana Railway Station arrived at Jammu and the outgoing trains are leaving now as per schedule.

Iran

USSR Troops' Shooting of Fisherman Protested

LD1109173690 Tehran IRNA in English 1643 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—An Iranian fisherman was shot dead by Soviet border troops in the Iranian territory early this month, said 'KEYHAN HAVAI' in its lates issue. The weekly (airmail edition of KEYHAN) said that three Iranian civilians were fishing in the Iranian side of the Astara border river when Soviet troops opened fire on them wounding one severely. He was transferred to hospital, but succumbed to his wounds, the paper said.

Quoting reports from the border city of Astara, in Iran's East Azerbaijan Province, it said that the shooting occurred while Iranian-Soviet border officials were negotiating to extend the width of a bridge connecting the two countries. Iranian border officials have lodged a protest with the Soviets and asked for explanations, the paper said. Meanwhile, KEYHAN HAVAI said a group of people from Astara including relatives of the victim gathered at a border checkpoint in the area and called on the Iranian authorities to take serious action.

Vietnamese Minister Ends Visit, Departs

LD1109103990 Tehran IRNA in English 0949 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 11, IRNA—The Vietnamese minister and Vice-chairman of State Commission for Cooperation and Investment Dau Ngoc Xuan [title as received] left Tehran for Hanoi at the end of a four-day official visit to Iran. Before departure, Dau, who arrived here at the head of an economic delegation last Friday, described his visit as satisfactory.

"During our stay here we realised that we can promote our friendly relations with Iran and start economic and commercial cooperation, particularly that Iran is in the stage of (post-war) reconstruction," Dau told reporters at the airport.

Deputy Commerce Minister Mohammad Shariat-Madari who was also at the airport to see of the Vietnamese delegation, said that in addition to oil, Iran would also consider export of industrial and non-oil good to Vietnam.

Dau carried a message for the Vietnamese president for his Iranian counterpart, which he handed to First Vice-president Hasan Habibi. During its stay here, the Vietnamese delegation held talks with ministers of foreign affairs, commerce, agriculture, oil, heavy industries, construction jihad and deputy minister of health and medical care.

Shiite Prisoners in Kuwait 'Handed' to Iran

NC1109170990 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 10 Sep 90 p 9

[Unattributed reported entitled: "Very Secret"]

[Text] In the context of normalizing the relations between Iran and Iraq, Tehran has been handed most of the Shiite detainees who were in the Kuwait prisons, including some who were accused of involvement in the attempt to assassinate Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad and the attempt to blow up water and electricity installations in October 1983.

Some of those detainees, who are Lebanese, Iraqis, and Kuwaitis, escaped from prison when Iraqi troops entered Kuwait on 2 August 1990. One of them appeared in his home town Yatir in Jabal 'Awmil in the Lebanese south. Of those who remained behind, Baghdad has handed 15 over to Tehran.

Bani-Sadr Sees Continued Differences With Saddam

PM1109153990 Jeddah UKAZ in Arabic 8 Sep 90 p 7

[Sa'd Mabruk report: "Bani-Sadr Tells 'UKAZ: Despite Withdrawal From Shatt al-'Arab, Differences Continue Between Iran and Iraq"]

[Excerpts] Paris—Former Iranian President Abolhasan Bani-Sadr has emphasized that there are deep differences between Saddam Husayn and the Iranian regime, especially over the Shatt al-'Arab area from which Saddam Husayn decided to withdraw.

In a statement to 'UKAZ Bani-Sadr said that Tariq 'Aziz's visit to Tehran was intended to discuss that dispute and also to ask Iran to sell food and other goods to Baghdad.

Bani-Sadr emphasized that, despite its dispute with Saddam Husayn, Iran could be violating international resolutions on the embargo against Iraq by selling Iraq food at double prices. Meat prices have reached $4.5 per kilogram. At the same time Iranian President Hashemi-Rafsanjani had called on the Americans at the last Friday prayers to deal an urgent blow to Saddam Husayn.

The former Iranian president revealed that Iran has held negotiations with Turkey to secure a $400-million loan from the [Ikzim] Bank, which Iran will use to finance commodities and goods to be reexported to Iraq across the border at high prices.

In his statement to 'UKAZ Bani-Sadr described Saddam Husayn as a coward, adding that he lacked courage and would not dare—and in fact could not—embark on major operations. The proof of this was his failure in the war with Iran. "I was the president of the Republic of Iran, and I confirm that if he had had any courage at all he would have been able to defeat Iran in the early weeks of the war.

"But he is a man prompted by his whims to seek more power and dictatorship."

Bani-Sadr said that Saddam today wears Khomeyni's robe and talks about Islam while detaining hostages and children and driving out thousands of Arabs and Muslims into the desert without shelter, clothes, or food. [passage omitted]

On Saddam's allegations about the foreign forces, Abolhasan Bani-Sadr said: If Iraq does not want foreign forces in the region, it must withdraw from Kuwait. It is its aggression against Kuwait which brought these forces. [passage omitted]

Editorial Says Ties With Iraq 'Advisable'

NC0709185690 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 1 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "With War Problems Over Better Iran, Iraq Ties Advisable"]

[Text] The Iranian soil has been almost completely evacuated by Iraqi troops. The issue of the exchange of the PoWs too is proceeding quite smoothly, and as it appears, will face no major problem. The process could be accelerated though.

Judging from the pace the two countries have adopted in solving war-related issues and putting them behind, it may be said the two sides are apparently heading towards establishing good neighborly ties and improving them.

This by no means should of course be interpreted as a sign of Iran's intention to change its stance towards the current regional crisis, the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait. The Islamic Republic's condemnation of the Iraqi march on Kuwait is final. Tehran does not seem tobackpedal from this position.

Good neighborly relations between the two capitals however will be mutually as well as regionally, beneficial.

The two nation's relations are historical and the bonds of culture and religious affinity are numerous.

Aside from Islam's holiest shrines in Saudi Arabia, some of the most respected Islamic sites are located in Iraq. The religious sanctuaries in Iraq are revered by Muslims the world over as are those located in Iran. The peoples of both nations, especially the Shi'ites that constitute 60 percent of Iraqi populace, just yearn to visit these religious shrines.

It is then advisable that both governments try to remove any cause of opacity and annoyance that might get in the way to better social trafic between the two nations. Citizens from both countries should be able to easily pay visits to each country.

Religious visits in particular are by themselves among the best ways of forgetting the past and the bitter memories of the war.

Now to materialize such a high contact between Iran and Iraq, which will in turn positively affect regional developments, it is necessary that the two governments pave the way for political relations.

Such diplomatic ties should of course make it possible to eliminate unnecessary consular restrictions in order that visits by citizens of the two countries become easy and not entangled in bureaucratic redtape.

Editorial Views 'Problem' of Foreigners in Mideast

NC0709195390 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 25 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "The Problem of Foreign Subjects in the Middle East"]

[Text] The fifth Western hostage was due to be released any moment from now on by militant Lebanese Muslims. The English born South Ireland national Brian Keenan is on his way to freedom after ample efforts by Iran out of humanitarian and Islamic considerations. But his release should, above all, be attributed to the very commendable goodwill shown by the Lebanese Muslims.

The Lebanese had every reason not to agree to the freedom of any other Western hostage, but still they did in spite of the way Israelis and Americans reacted to the release of former hostages in recent months. When the Lebanese released two Americans, and, later two Swiss nationals, Israel and the U.S. not only did not react in goodwill but actually launched some hostile moves. They did not release the hundreds of Palestinians and Lebanese hostages held by pro-Israeli groups. Yet the Lebanese reacted favorably to humanitarian pleas of the Islamic Republic and have now freed Keenan, a fifth Western hostage.

Iran's humanitarian efforts reflects but pure goodwill and this should be realized by Ireland, Britain and the European Community.

The problem of foreign hostages in Lebanon, however, seems to be heading for a final solution. One of the parties, though, has not reacted with the expected goodwill. But the world's public opinion is now much concerned about the fate of thousands of foreign subjects caught in Iraq and Kuwait.

The American military presence in this very highly explosive part of the world however has no justification and will only add to tensions. Yet the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and its use of foreign nationals as human shields is as commendable.

The Islamic Republic has adopted a very logical stand towards the Kuwaiti crisis. Iran has backed all the United Nations resolutions issued over the crisis. It has also officially informed all countries whose nationals are caught up in Iraq and Kuwait that they can use Iranian soil as a transit-course. With the closure of the Jordanian border, this move by Tehran is all the more important and is purely a humanitarian one. Iran's services along this line can play an important role in settling the problem of foreign nationals in Kuwait and Iraq.

The U.S., Britain, France, other Western powers should all pressure Israel to reciprocate these humanitarian moves. To demonstrate their goodwill they can move to free Muslim hostages especially the militant Lebanese religious leader Shaykh 'Ubayd in Lebanon and occupied Palestine.

Meanwhile, the Iraqi government to show its goodwill and respect for humanitarian issues, should free all foreign nationals in its territory as well as those in Kuwait.

Now if the two parties fail to act on humanitarian grounds, it will be binding on the United Nations to make a serious decision towards solving the problem of foreign subjects in Lebanon, occupied Palestine, Iraq and Kuwait.

IRNA Comments on Helsinki Summit, Gulf Crisis

LD0809140890 Tehran IRNA in English 1307 GMT 8 Sep 90

["The Summit of War"—IRNA headline]

[Text] Athens, Sept 8, IRNA—If last December's Malta summit heralded the end of the cold-war era betwen the two super powers, fears are abound that Sunday's Helsinki meeting between U.S. President George Bush and his Soviet counterpart Mikhail Gorbachev could be a harbinger of the start of a hot-war in the Muslim Middle East.

The hastily-called emergency summit to discuss the Perisan Gulf crisis follows the failure of a series of diplomatic efforts to find a political solution and Washington's resolve to use its gunboat policy as evident from the massive American military buildup in the region. It is expected that Bush will tell Gorbachev that there is no option left but a military strike against Iraq and would seek a silent nod from the Soviet leader.

Gorbachev might advocate for more patience and time to resolve the crisis peacefully and is likely to propose the holding of an international peace conference in the Middle East to tackle the Persian Gulf crisis and the Palestinian question. But U.S. foster child Israel has already rejected such a proposal.

Moreover Moscow and Baghdad do not see eye-to-eye on the Persian Gulf crisis. Iraqi foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz following a recent visit to the Soviet Union acknowledged that there were differences of opinion between the two states over Iraq's invasion of Kuwait. The West, however, is very thirsty for Saddam Husayn's blood and all signs point that it will not rest till it has shed it.

The london-based SUNDAY TIMES, expressing Western thinking, bluntly put it: "But the sooner the war party, with its aim of freeing Kuwait and toppling President Saddam, starts calling the shots again, the better. That is not warmongering. It is a willingness to suffer casualities now to avoid a holocaust later. If the peace party has its way, the holocaust will be inevitable."

The U.S. television network has been showing recently-released American hostages from Kuwait calling for a military intervention. According to Western military experts and press reports, the Americans will launch a military strike against Iraq sometime in October when it has assembled the necessary firepower in Saudi Arabai and the Persian Gulf.

Others think that the strike may come soon after the Helsinki summit after Gorbachev has given his consent. As Bush himself said both Moscow and Washington were thinking on the same line regarding the Middle East. "We are in general agreement on a lot of issues that relate to the Middle East," he remarked in a recent speech.

The Persian Gulf crisis, the first post cold-war crisis, will be a testing point for the new Soviet-American understanding in the aftermath of the collapse of Communism in Eastern Europe. The United States has shifted its strategic interests away from the borders of the Eastern European bloc and is now concentrating on the Middle East in order to fully control its oil wealth.

On the other hand, the Muslim world is hopelessly divided, dominated and weak to take its affairs in its own hands. Unity can be achieved only on one basis-Islam. The sooner the Muslim world realizes this fact the better.

White House spokesman Marlin Fitzwater made the ominous declaration that "a new foundation for world order is being built and the spade work begins in Helsinki."

In other words the map of the Muslim world is going to be redrawn. Let Muslims heed to the Koranic teaching that "Allah will not change the condition of a people unless they change what is in themselves."

Editorials Comment on Gulf Crisis, U.S. Role

Intentions of Iraq, West

NC2808191990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 19 Aug 90 pp 1,9

[Editorial: "America's Dagger in the Heart of the Islamic World's Oil Producing Area"]

[Text] The region's political-military developments are becoming more complicated and critical following Iraq's military aggression against Kuwait and America's more extensive aggression against Saudi Arabia and the entire region.

On the one hand, Iraq has ignored international law, has deprived the Kuwaiti people of their elementary rights, and is insisting on the prolonging the crisis. On the other hand, America is seizing this opportunity—specifically because of the concern felt by the flimsy Arab kings—for its own benefits and greed and is striving to establish its military presence in the region and to legalize this presence forever.

Meanwhile, Washington claims that it has reached an agreement with the Saudi court which ensures its vast military presence in Hejaz for many years and that this agreement has been signed by Bush and Fahd. Actually, Washington is trying to exploit the daily increasing concern of the flimsy Arab shaykhs and to pave the way under these critical conditions for the fulfillment of its long-term objectives in the region, one of which is the control of Saudi Arabia's oil fields.

Thus, the heart of the Islamic world's oil producing region is being directly placed in the hands of America; the artery of the world of Islam—and especially of the regional countries—is becoming a target for America to take a direct shot. This is the great danger of which the Islamic Republic of Iran always warned; and now because of Iraq's aggression upon Kuwait and in threatening the Al Sa'ud court, the grounds for the materialization of this danger have been paved and America has been able to fish from muddy waters created by Iraq.

Now the fate of Kuwait's $200-billion wealth is ambiguous and the industrialized West is doing its best to seize this opportunity to confiscate this wealth that was brought out of nowhere. Actually, the Iraqi Government hoped that by attacking Kuwait, it would have put an end to its debts to Kuwait and Saudi Arabia. But what happened instead was that the West's astronomic debts to Kuwait were erased and only a few bills will fall in the hands of the future Kuwaiti Government.

Even though Iraq was in the direct service of America during the past 10 years, the West acted so expertly in exploiting Iraq's latest act that it makes one think that this aggression too recieved the green light from the West and specifically from America.

At any rate, whatever is happening is sufficiently clear for nations which are now seeing for themselves that the West and the Arab leaders have resorted to a surprising race of making revelations about each other and of disgracing each other parallel to efforts to fool public opinion and to justify their acts. But all these are only treacheries detrimental to the Muslim nations, and what is being done today is aimed at inflicting blows on the Muslims.

The fact that U.S. President Bush is trying to portray the objectives behind America's recent military aggression in the region as "service to the ideals of justice and freedom" and to insist on "America's determination to confront aggression" is as deceitful as the Baghdad leaders' attempt to don an anti-American mask and to hoist the banner of anti-American struggles in the region. But the true problem that the enemies of Islam are facing is that because of the circumstances, they have to reveal things about each other.

It is not without reason that when Iraq announced the acceptance of the 1975 Algiers agreement, suddenly all its mentors in the eight-year war against Iran were shocked and revealed their concern, awe, and rage in every possible way and, in a bid to take revenge on Baghdad, they portrayed it as the "aggressor and the fomenter of the aggression against Iran" and scorned Iraq for a destructive war and crimes. But under these very conditions, the shaykhs of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia continue to try to show their goodwill toward Baghdad and remind it of their friendship and of their primary role in extending financial supprort to Iraq during the war against Iran in a bid to make Iraq feel ashamed for the services that it received for eight years.

Everything is so clear that nations cannot be deceived. Today all of Iraq's mentors during the eight-year war have started "self-revelations" and see no alternative but to speak about the realities of the war and the completion of the dossier of this "great crime of the century" against the Muslim nations of the region.

The Iranian nation's great honor is that it realized the truth from the very first day and at a time the aggression against Iran was portrayed as "service to the Arabs' ideals" and "the opening of the way toward the liberation of Jerusalem." They started their efforts from the very first day to end the aggresion, to punish the aggressor, and to neutralize the plans by the enemies of mankind. The Iranian nation did the best it could and today everyone confesses that this brave nation stood alone against the entire world of arrogance and against all the enemies of mankind.

Maybe there were those who expected this nation to remain indifferent toward the occupation of Kuwait and the overthrow of the Kuwaiti regime and even to welcome it in view of all the treacheries committed by the Kuwaiti shaykh and all the malice from the Al Sa'ud regime. But the Iranian Government and nation are faithful to clear-cut principles and criteria and it is on the basis of these principles and criteria that they condemn the very essence of aggression even if this aggression was against Kuwait which was Iraq's ally during the imposed war.

Perhaps there were those who expected this nation to welcome the Baghdad leaders' deceitful cries for anti-American struggles. But from the very beginning the Iranian nation drew a line between itself and the false advocates of anti-American struggles. But it did so with a much louder cry and with a sincerity no one can ignore. It did it with a wrath that emanates from deep inside. This nation raised its voice loudly against America and its aggression in the region and it simultaneously condemned and condemns America's aggression against the region and Iraq's aggression against Kuwait.

This alert move by the Iranian Government and nation once again neutralized the mischief by the arrogant's mass media and they were once again disgraced in front of all nations. The arrogant mass media were trying to portray any protest against American aggression as tantamount to support for Iraq's acts and they still resort to this mischief in their newscasts. But these are two entirely different issues. The Iraqi regime occupied territory in an unacceptable way. This should be condemned. At the same time America's aggressopm was much larger against the entire region and specifically against Saudi Arabian territory. Using the pretext of confronting Iraq's aggression, it is trying to legalize its savage aggression. This is why it is trying to portray those who oppose such savage aggressions as "Iraq's mentors." But as far as the Iranian Government and nation are concerned, America is now facing a contradiction that it cannot justify.

America cannot don the deceitful mask of "confronting aggression" and simultaneously justify is own aggression. We will tear this deceitful mask from America's wretched face and will show everyone America's unmasked face once more. For a decade America was the planner of the military aggression against Iran. All stories about all of the crimes perpetrated by Arab reaction against the Islamic revolution was in its hands. Therefore it was directly responsible for the direct aggession and all the crimes.

America's deceitful gesture of "confronting aggression" is very disgusting and only shows the ignorance of the Washington leaders. The gesture of "serving the ideals of justice and freedom" is not becoming to the criminal American leaders. With its attack on Iran's passenger plane, with its attack on Iran's oil platforms, and with the eight years of preparations for an aggression against Iran, America can no longer repeat such demagogic slogans and fool people.

America's disgrace is so serious that Mr. Bush cannot erase it. Iran's Islamic Revolution is like the cry for freeom by a tormented nation. The Islamic Revolution is a symbol of the desire for justice in the century of hellish domination by satanic powers. It clearly revealed realities to the oppressed of the world. And the great honor is that it stripped the mask of deceit from the faces of the enemies of humanity and especially of criminal America. This may be extremely bitter for the American faces. But this is the truth and they should, very bitterly, be able to accept realities.

U.S. Policy Termed 'Quixotic'

LD3008182890 Tehran IRNA in English 1749 GMT 30 Aug 90

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 30, IRNA—When questioned whether the al-Sabah rule in Kuwait was so important that American youth have to give their blood for it, the U.S. defence secretary replied that it was not the matter of al-Sabah rule at all, but the issue at stake were vital regional resources and their political significance.

Dick Cheney continued in the televised interview that the major part of oil consumed by the industrialized world and some one-fourth of the U.S. oil needs come from this region, and whoever dominates this region, dominates the world?

"Amusing indeed", said an Iranian political commentator in the Persian daily ETTALA'AT today, drawing attention to the quixotic reasoning of the American "both in terms of logic and in terms of policy and strategy toward the world in the future.

Does it mean, asked Mohammad Javad Larijani, "if the U.S. needs something somewhere, no matter at what distance, it has the right to send its forces, engage in war, install a government, set up a union...?"

"Suppose this is right", he added "can the Iraqi action be protested? Since they (Iraqis) also needed Kuwaiti oil, Kuwaiti shores and other political priviledges, and moreover, they had joint borders with Kuwait and therefore decided to send in their troops."

Asked the onetime Foreign Ministry deputy "is this how the Americans see the world?"

Larijani focussed on Margaret Thatcher's division of the world into three currency blocs, of the U.S. dollar, the German mark and the Japanese yen, and all three, as the British advocated to be dominated by Washington by creating a U.S.-Pacific axis to control Europe.

He said, holding Europe on the leash is an important part of U.S. world policy, and to this end Washington has several ways, including:

—"Setting up a U.S.-British axis, in a way it questions the European nature of this continent.

—Giving a new definition for nato and the strategic situation of Turkey.

—Setting up a U.S.-Pacific axis despite the lack of a congenial economy.

—Dominating the Persian Gulf region to control the fuel flow to Europe."

Americans cry that if Saddam were to dominate Kuwait and regional oil resources, oil prices would go out of control, with a doomsday spectre for Western economies, noted the commentator.

But for Europe, he added, the U.S. domination over "this obvious treasure trove" can almost have the same results, because Americans will also tighten the oil valves in particular times in order to rein in Europe.

If such be the case, Western Europe is likely to prefer regional control on oil, said Larijani "because they can cope better with exiting economic and industrial needs."

"In other words, if Americans linger long (in the Persian Gulf) doubts may certainly emerge in the European support," he concluded.

Warning on Post-Saddam Era

NC0809073090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "What's the Great Satan Up To?"]

[Text] It would be sheer simplemindedness to think that peace and stability would return to the Persian Gulf region if the United States succeeds in its endeavors to topple Iraqi President Saddam Husayn.

Of course, the post Saddam Husayn era would be an ideal situation only for Washington. Even the EC countries as well as Japan would find themselves in a most undesirable position. Though the said countries, particularly a united Germany, becoming more independent politically because of the end of the so-called cold war and NATO having been transformed into an obsolete organization, would realize that their economies are under U.S. hegemony in case Washington triumphs in implementing its plot.

The bulk of the oil requirement of the said countries comes from the Persian Gulf oil fields. The major portion of these oil reserves, after a change of government in Iraq, would be under direct control of the U.S.. Obviously a regime succeeding the present one in Baghdad would not be different than the former al-Sabah regime in Kuwait and the present puppet regimes in the Persian Gulf littoral states.

If that situation is going to be undesirable for the EC, Japan and also the Soviet Union, it certainly will be, God forbid, a horrible one for the Islamic Republic of Iran. Surrounded by U.S.-installed puppet regimes Iran will find itself in more formidable, untolerable and totally devastating conditions—manifestly worse than those it faced during the eight years of the imposed war and two years of the no-war no-peace duration.

Iran which has launched a systematic reconstruction program, the first five-year plan currently being implemented, will become entirely helpless if its oil revenues are controlled by the U.S. Washington, through its stooges, will have the final say in OPEC on all matters concerning oil production and prices.

The bitter truth in such an event, will be that Iran's economy will be more or less dependent on the whims of the occupants of the White House. When that, God forbid, happens Iran's political independence will suffer a similar fate and perhaps even worse, than that suffered by Japan and the EC countries.

This is what the Majlis deputy from Mashhad, Qorban 'Ali Salehabadi, meant when he addressed the Majlis on Tuesday and expressed his views about the present Persian Gulf crisis. "The officials should realize," warned Salehabadi, "that an important event is taking shape in the region. This, in the long run, is going to be a threat for our interests. We should stand up against the forces (now present in the region). But, unfortunately we see that in these conditions some of the policies are implemented ambiguously. The invitation extended to the (former) foreign affairs minister of Kuwait, a wrong decision, is one such instance. I make an appeal that the matter should be reviewed."

Inviting Kuwait's foreign minister to visit Tehran is as undesirable an act as our foreign minister, Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati visiting the sheikhs of Qatar and Bahrain after Kuwait's al-Sabah regime was toppled, and his meeting in Damascus with Kuwait's representatives.

Commenting on the U.S.-led military build up in the region, a Jordanian newspaper Al-Ra'y wrote Wednesday: "The war is not only the war of Iraq and Saddam, but the war of millions of Arabs and Muslims."

The Muslim nation of Iran will certainly not remain a silent spectator when the flames of such a war begin to engulf the Persian gulf. We have fought and suffered for Islam against the Iraqi forces supported by the Great Satan, the al-Sabahs and the Al Sa'uds for a decade. We can resume doing so when Islam is endangered and with God's help will once again come out triumphantly from the confrontation between Islam and kufr (blasphemy)—INSHALLAH.

Benefits for U.S. Viewed

NC0809093390 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 27 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Imminence of Conflict"]

[Text] Up until the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq on Aug. 2, it had been one of the lingering wishes of the United States and the Western world to maintain a more than just a token presence in the strategic Persian Gulf region.

The outbreak of the Iraq-Iran war and later the Kuwaiti government's request from the U.S. to protect its oil tankers in the Persian Gulf was a step in materializing this Western wish. With the termination of the war, what reason could they (the Western countries) have to continue their military presence in the waterway?

So by invading Kuwait, Iraq made a tactical mistake, if not for anything else for bringing about the necessary circumstances for a massive U.S. and Western presence in the Persian Gulf region. And so now there are plenty of indications that the U.S. is here to stay and it is ready to go a costly war with Iraq for that purpose.

Iraq or its leadership, consciously or unconsciously, has brought the Persian Gulf region and the Middle East to a turning point. If the war between the two camps breaks out, the region will be a different place for both the region's countries and the world after that. The U.S., for that matter, seems to have brought about all the peripheral supporting factors for a confrontation with Iraq.

The U.N. Security Council's unprecedented approval of the application of military force in enforcing its embargo against Iraq was one factor. The U.N. consensus was necessary to convince the international public that the imminent war was a mere attempt to implement a choosing of the world.

In addition to Iraq, the countries that are most likely to pay a heavy price in any confrontation between the U.S. and Iraq are Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf Sheikhdoms. They seem to have been 'convinced' that the overthrow of the Iraqi regime is in their long term interest. They now have begun to say that they can't trust Saddam.

The Soviets gave their green light to the Western use of force by not vetoing the U.N. council resolution on the embargo. With the Soviet O.K. in their pockets, the Westerners had to deal with another stumbling block; namely the presence of millions of foreigners and specially thousands of Westerners in Kuwait and Iraq. The U.S. National Security Advisor Brent Scowcroft dealt with that by saying the U.S. "vital interests" would transcend the lives of Western hostages in that (Iraq) country and that Washington action would not be deterred by them (hostages). With the media preparation of U.N. [as published] domestic public opinion, the stage is set for confrontation.

It does not seem the U.S. is particularly concerned about the possible loss of life by either its troops or the civilians (hostages in Iraq.) If the volume of arms transferred to the region are any indications, the U.S. is planning for a long term stay. History has demonstrated beyond any doubt that the U.S. has used the loss of life as a pretext to justify its presence in any desired location. Therefore, the possible casualties in the above two categories will only serve the purpose. The loss of life, as in Korea or Vietnam, is regarded as a price to legitimize U.S. armed forces presence.

The war with Iraq is presenting the Bush administration with certain benefits. As a result of its stay in the Persian Gulf, the U.S. will gain control over the energy lifeline of both itself and the industrial world. It will be guaranteed about an uninterrupted flow of oil. Once it has established its control here it might even begin to set its prices. Notice Saudi government insistance on increasing production to meet alleged world oil shortage.

In view of the changing balance of economic power in the capitalist world, with the emergence of Japan and an integrated Europe, the undisputed U.S. presence here will give it a controlling say over the energy distribution. So the war with Iraq will reconfirm the U.S. its superpower status which has begun to be questioned as a result of the competition with its allies.

With the collapse of the regime in Baghdad—if and when it happens—the U.S. can put in its place a pro-Western regime that would further its interests with no questions asked, just like those in Saudi Arabia and other Persian Gulf states. The confrontation with Iraq may also help stop or check the so-called radical forces in the region that challenge U.S. interests, at the same time that it (the conflict) would replenish confidence to U.S. "allies" in the region that might have doubted U.S. resolve to defend them.

U.S. officials have made it plenty clear that if war breaks out it will not be limited to any specific locale and will encompass the entire Iraqi territory. Does that include the Shi'ites holy shrines in Karbala', al-Najaf, Samarra,...? Will the holy shrines in Mecca and al-Madinah be kept out of this conflict? Most probably not. That means in the face of all the things that the U.S. and its Western allies will gain, the region's Muslims stand to lose everything they hold dear to them.

The U.S. ought to carefully consider the consequences of what it is about to begin. The destruction of Islamic shrines coupled with massive loss of Muslim life will give rise to a region-wide Islamic uprising strong enough to undermine all Western interests here. Americans will certainly not be able to do business as usual—export oil from the Persian Gulf—when the most valued Muslim tenets are desecrated.

If the Americans do not adequately weigh the consequences of their act they will be confronted with a radicalized Muslim world who would feel nothing but hatred for the Western world. The U.S. cannot claim it can maintain a prolonged control over its vital interests if those of the Muslims in their own home is not protected.

Efforts To Find Diplomatic Solution

NC0809105090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 1 Sep 90 p 2

[Editorial: "U.N. Peacemaking Skills—Chances of Success!"]

[Excerpts] A new stage for a 'diplomatic battle' to resolve the Persian Gulf crisis has already begun in the wake of the relative balance created between the belligerent parties in the conflict. [passage omitted]

The U.S. and Britain with over 6,000 of their nationals trapped in Iraq and occupied Kuwait, have ruled out any direct negotiations with Iraq as long as it has the tiny Persian Gulf sheikhdom under occupation.

Negotiations with Baghdad, while it is closing down foreign embassies in Kuwait one after the other, would be in the interest of Baghdad. An Arab solution to the crisis excluding the return to power of the al-Sabah dynasty, would lead to the establishment of an Iraqi subservient government.

Mr. Perez de Cuellar's personal effort to put a peaceful end to the crisis could contain a moderate solution. The U.N. chief's proposals and peacemaking skills would bear fruit under two conditions. First to have the backing of the permanent and veto-holding members of the Security Council, and secondly if the belligerent parties accept his proposals.

If the West rejects a government other than al-Sabah to rule in Kuwait, the crisis is likely to further escalate.

Iraq is hopeful to gain the following objectives during the few months it could stand economic sanctions imposed by the U.N. and the West:
—To attract Arab sympathy
—To remove all traces of an independent state in Kuwait
—To form a new front in its own favor comprising the countries which would practically not abide by the economic sanctions.

But as long as Iraq's propaganda war is not aimed at Israel, the possibility of accomplishing the abovementioned goals would be slim.

The United States too may be after the following objectives:
—To stabilize its military presence in all the littoral Persian Gulf states and in fact become the gendarme of the region
—To find a new foothold in the region
—To bring the regional oil, and therefore Arab economy, under its own control.

A change in any of the elements of the crisis or the emergence of factors disturbing the present balance could ignite the fire of another devastating war—something which is not unlikely.

Editorials Criticize Saudi Arabia's Involvement

Saudi Effort To 'Undermine' OPEC

NC0709163990 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 20 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "OPEC Member Countries Should Avoid Sidedealings"]

[Text] Hisham Nazir, the Saudi oil minister, has announced that his country is prepared to upscale its oil production by two million barrels a day in order to make up for the present shortage in the international market. The shortage is a result of the stoppage in the Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports.

Since the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait on last August 2, and partly due to the psychological effect of this crisis, the world oil market has been greatly agitated and disturbed. Meanwhile by calling a special OPEC session the Saudis are trying to prevent a shootup in oil prices through pushing for an increase in the quotas assigned to the member nations. Apparently they are going for the OPEC banchmark price of 20 dollars per barrel.

But memories are still fresh with what the Saudis and its partners in the (Persian) Gulf Cooperation Council [(P)GCC], namely Kuwait and United Arab Emirates did when OPEC's benchmark price had been fixed at 18 dollars a barrel.

At that time the trio overreached their assigned quotas to the extent that the consequent glut forced producers to sell their oil at much lower price than 18 dollars a barrel. It was such moves on the part of Saudi Arabia and its (P)GCC partners that persuaded Iraq the three were after destruction of Iraq's strangled economy by causing a drop in oil price.

The Saudis, however, should stop cutting side deals that undermine the OPEC clout on the oil market. Individual under-the-table deals will only weaken OPEC as a whole. Besides, in view of the current situation in the region, the Saudis must be aware that from Tehran's perspective there is just no justification for such moves.

Now if they insist on the necessity of a special OPEC session, the Saudis should clearly brief other members on their point of view and the wisdom of such a move. If other members agree and such a meet pushes through, then any oil related decision should be adopted by OPEC collectively. Side deals will only bring the OPEC face-to-face with numerous problems.

Now it is very surprising how the Saudis are trying to curry favor with their American "friends." Although the Saudis are well aware of the very negative attitude of Muslim masses towards the presence of American forces in the heartland of Islam, they are still trying to please American industrialists by flooding the oil markets. It seems they are ready to go to any length along this line even if it means an obvious blow to the national interests of their own people as well as other oil exporting countries. The drop in the oil prices will only serve the oppressors' interests. Besides the industrial countries can quite easily overcome the shortage caused by the stoppage in Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil exports by making use of the huge oil reserves they have built up in recent years when oil was sold much cheaper than at its present price.

Saudi Moves Seek To Benefit West

NC0809075090 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Saudis Defy Regional Interests in Favor of Foreign Powers"]

[Text] Persian Gulf petroleum sources say they expect Saudi Arabia to increase its oil production very soon. Meanwhile last Monday the Venezuelan President Carlos Andres Perez said in Caracas that several OPEC countries with a high production capacity, plan to hold a meeting on their own out of the cartel's capacity. Saudi Oil Minister Hisham Nazir too has said that unless an emergency meeting of OPEC is held then Riyadh will act independently on its own.

At present the world is not faced with any shortage of oil because of the industrialized and Western consumer countries' strategic oil reserves (which they have stored to counter any emergency situation). Besides there are about 180 million barrels of oil at present floating in tankers on international waters, even though there is a gap of 4 million barrels of oil output of Kuwait's and Iraq's. Therefore, the increase in the oil price under present conditions is merely a result of the critical situation of the Persian Gulf region and mostly psychological. There is then no need for other OPEC countries to increase their own output above their assigned quotas in order to make up for the loss of Iraqi and Kuwaiti oil.

Now under present circumstances preservation of unity and organization within OPEC and respect for its decisions is of the highest significance. OPEC's importance and power derives from this very respect of its members for its decisions. If the OPEC member countries act on their own and contrary to the decisions of the majority they would in fact be helping to weaken and dismember OPEC.

And the resulting chaos would be detrimental to each and every member. In that situation OPEC would no longer be able to effectively determine the level of output and prices of oil. And this is exactly what industrialized consumer countries desire: The impotence of OPEC.

Since its very inception industrialized nations have always tried to create rifts within OPEC and make it ineffective in production and pricing. And unfortunately the recent decisions of Saudi Arabia on increasing its production, with no consideration for OPEC's decisions, is one of the predictable consequences after the deployment of American forces in that country. This move is totally in the interests of the West. It is very clear that America is undoubtedly behind such a decision. It can be stated quite conveniently that petro-related motives underly all the West's policies towards regional nations and that all the problems in this part of the world boil down to oil.

Saudi Arabia's moves will then not only not reduce the current tension but all well likely to create new ones especially in the economic sphere. These moves are made by Riyadh in defiance of regional nations' interests. From this perspective even after the present crisis is over the region may still find itself facing problems as far as a regional economic unity is concerned; problems brought about by Saudi Arabia's blind moves to secure the interests of its Western allies.

The warp and the worps [as published] of the future problems are designed overseas and woven today on the royal court's loom in Riyadh.

Tehran on Prospects for Improved Ties With EC

LD1109135490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The EEC has expressed a wish to expand its ties with Iran. According to REUTER, Gianni de Michelis, foreign minister of Italy, which currently holds the chairmanship of the EC, has announced that a delegation wishes to meet the Iranian foreign minister in New York this month to discuss the possibility of improving ties with Iran. Let me draw your attention to a report in this connection:

[Begin correspondent recording] The EC has launched a new effort to improve its ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Gianni de Michelis, Italian foreign minister and president of the current EC Council of Ministers, has announced that he plans to meet soon with Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, our country's foreign minister, during the UN General Assembly session in New York. He expressed the hope that this meeting and other similar high-level EC contacts with Iran will resolve and remove some of the current problems in relations between the Islamic Republic of Iran and some Western European countries. The Italian foreign minister's meeting with our foreign minister will be the highest-level EC contact with an official representative of our country since the Salman Rushdie furor [fetneh].

The Italian foreign minister's decision to move toward improving EC ties with Iran was apparently approved after a six-month long effort in the EC's Council of Ministers. One of the steps which the EC will take toward improving ties with Iran is the publication of a statement affirming respect for islam and expressing opposition to any kind of insult to the religion of Islam and to Muslims. The EC hopes that the statement will persuade [targhib] Muslims and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran to normalize relations with some EC countries, including Britain.

Two years ago, Britain asked the EC to break off relations with Tehran and to refrain from any high-level contacts with the Islamic Republic of Iran's officials. Now, however, the authorities of Britain, the only country which does not have diplomatic ties with Iran, who will reap the greatest benefit from an improvement of EC ties with Iran, have stressed that they are aware of the EC's current efforts, that they have approved the statement which the EC is to issue, and that they have expressed no opposition to the meeting between the Italian and Iranian foreign ministers.

The British prime minister and foreign secretary have issued numerous statements during the past two months expressing considerable interest in improving ties with the Islamic Republic of Iran, and have tried to distance themselves from Salman Rushdie and the publishers of his blasphemous book, stress respect for islam and muslims, and express regret at the offense to Muslims caused by the publication of *The Satanic Verses*.

EC sources say that Britain now believes that the fatwa of His Eminence Imam Khomeyni, may God be satisfied with his deeds, is a shari'ah [Islamic law] edict from the highest religious source of authority for Muslims and that Britain must not ask for its removal in its diplomatic relations with Tehran.

This is the Voice and Vision of the Islamic Republic of Iran, London. [end recording]

Editorial Opposes OPEC Production Increase

NC0809094090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL in English 25 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Fighting Temptation"]

[Text] The temptation is strong. Iraq's invasion of Kuwait, followed by America's military interference in the Persian Gulf, has pushed the price of oil to the highest level since late 1985. World supplies are short of more than four million barrels a day because Iraq and occupied Kuwait cannot sell oil. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries appears to be under pressure to increase production to fill the gap. Member states of the 13-nation organization are split down the middle over the prospect of turning up the taps. But sources close to their respective oil industries claim the $32 tag on a barrel of crude is rather inviting. Nearly half the OPEC producers would be willing to sell more at the new price while the other half are opposed to the idea and stress the world should use stockpiled oil rather than press OPEC to pump more.

As a matter of fact, the entire crisis in the region has oil as its focal point. Iraq attacked and annexed Kuwait early this month because the sheikhdom was violating an OPEC-assigned quota, thus contributing to the fall in the international price of the black gold. When Shaykh Jabir al-Ahmad al-Sabah refused to comply with appeals and warnings, Iraqi President Saddam Husayn decided to cut off al-Sabah's authority over the oil-rich country. Then came the self-appointed gendarme of the world, albeit this time on Saudi request. The United States magnified Baghdad's move out of proportion and has entrenched tens of thousands of troops on Saudi territory and the adjacent areas to 'protect' the world's biggest oil exporter from possible Iraqi aggression. Washington's Western allies have followed suit in the framework of their common policy—not to let oil price and production strategies be decided by OPEC states hostile to Western imperialism.

At the same time U.S. policymakers are trying to make the most out of the present situation. Soaring oil prices will definitely affect the economies of Western Europe and Japan and leave them with no alternative but to improve their quality of competition. The performance of the U.S. economy, as compared to that of the Europeans and Japanese, can be described as poor keeping in mind its huge trade and budget deficits. Thus if America's economic planners failed to make a dent in the European and Japanese structure through performance and efficiency, the Pentagon has come to their rescue by forcing its competitors to pay much more for oil and thereby slowdown in the trade race.

To keep itself clean of the ensuing oil crisis, the U.S. administration is using double-standards. Since the Iraqi takeover of Kuwait, the Americans are working overtime to draw world public attention towards the vulnerability of Saudi Arabia, as if it is important for them whether King Fahd rules in Riyadh or another Western stooge. Ostensibly to calm fears in international oil markets, Washington is letting it be known that Saudi Arabia will make up for the shortage by pumping an additional two million barrels per day. Of course this will be in gratitude for American military protection. Reports have indicated that the Saudis and Venezuelans may go ahead and raise their output to compensate for a major part of the shortfall.

With all the speculation and chaos in the oil markets northwithstanding, the Americans seem determined to cast their shadow on the region's oil sheikhdoms and crush any initiative that might jeopardize their objectives in the long-term. Iraq's action and American reaction proves beyond any shadow of doubt that oil will play the most important and delicate role in the future of world affairs. In light of this development, it is natural that the final word on any global issue will come from those who control the price and production of the finite resource.

If viewed from this prism, America's near declaration of war can be understood better. Its shocking military commitment to the "peace and security" of Saudi Arabia and other tiny Persian Gulf littoral states will not be so shocking when there is a clearer realization of priorities and long-term interests of the Western camp. The military build up in the world's most important oil region is supposed to be a warning to those who might seize the initiative in OPEC to demand the correct equivalent of oil in dollars. Strong regional and international concern over the foreign military presence here will, however, have its effects in the coming weeks.

The impoverished masses of the Muslim oil producing nations will not forget that only a few years back the U.S.-led bloc used Baghdad to depress oil prices and prevent the so-called "radicalization" of OPEC after the Islamic Revolution. Today the game is the same but the players have changed. The West is pushing the Saudi monarch to the forefront and is out to overthrow Saddam Husayn to protect its economic lifeline. Muslims of the world cannot be confused on this point. Apparently they are not, judging from the weeks of demonstrations against the U.S. and the corrupt house of Al Sa'ud. In the last three weeks tens of protest rallies have called for action against U.S. and Saudi interests and the creation of a pan-Islamic force to confront the elements of evil.

As far as OPEC is concerned, member states will not lose sight of long time [as published] interests by rushing for short-term benefits. The Saudis will no doubt be an exception to this rule, their interests or survival if you will, depends on how far they can boost present production levels.

Nevertheless, the price of OPEC oil will henceforth follow a pattern free of Saudi-U.S. tactics. Even if Iraq withdraws from Kuwait and Shaykh Jabir returns to power, the fragile Arab sheikhdoms and OPEC members will no more be able to freely support Western interests while determining oil prices and production quotas. The present temptation to make a few dollars more by raising output should be ignored. Whatever decisions are taken, the authority and unity of the oil organization should not be shaken.

Editorial Praises Aid to Foreigners Transit

NC0809085490 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English 27 Aug 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Passage to Trapped Foreigners Another Plus for Iran"]

[Text] Iran's Foreign Minister Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati has stated that the Islamic Republic of Iran will agree to the transit of foreigners stranded in Kuwait and Iraq through Iranian borders, due to humanitarian considerations.

The statements of Dr. Velayati which came after requests by certain countries, are very humanitarian and praiseworthy and can help to resolve the crisis affecting foreigners in Iran and Kuwait.

And Iran's stated agreement enjoys special importance because a number of countries neighboring Iraq have refused passage to foreigners due to certain problems of their own.

The Islamic Republic of Iran, as its record always reflects, has again shown respect for a humanitarian cause and offers generous support and protection for the oppressed people. This humanitarian and Islamic behavior has been one of the particular characteristics of the Islamic Republic ever since the victory of the Islamic Revolution. But world arrogance and the enemies of Islam have always tried to portray the case falsely and accuse the Islamic Republic of violence. And they have also tried to either justify or overlook all the cruelties and crimes perpetrated against the Iranian nation by the oppressors. But fortunately today a new page in history has been opened and many of the facts are being revealed and the amazing confessions of the leaders of arrogance and their allies are being heard.

Under present conditions with the U.S. forces flooding into the Persian Gulf and waiting for an opportunity to exploit, plunder and massacre the region, and Iraq acting in an unprincipled manner by occupying Kuwait, it is fortunate that the Islamic Republic due to its geographical position has agreed for purely humanitarian reasons to permit the passage of trapped foreigners through its land. By doing this, the Islamic Republic not only performs its Islamic duty in supporting innocent human beings, one that world public opinion takes glad note of.

The Islamic Republic has launched a new trend in international humanitarian behavior and we hope that the foreigners stranded in Iraq and Kuwait can easily and safely return to their families and homelands.

We, moreover, hope that the present crisis, in the Persian Gulf will be ended in a completely peaceful manner without the interference of foreign powers and by the Moslem countries of the region itself. We also hope that the Moslem nations of the region by respecting their mutual territorial integrity, will move in the direction of unity and brotherhood.

POW Exchange Occurs With Iraq in Khosravi

LD0809200590 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 8 Sep 90

[Text] The 13th group of POW's entered the Islamic homeland this evening at the Khosravi border. They were welcomed by the combatants of Islam in the Khosravi and Qasr-e Shirin region. According to IRNA, at the same time as the return this group of 900 freed men, 900 more Iraqi POW's were handed over to Iraqi officials at the Khosravi border. According to the report, so far about 11,700 POW's have returned to the Islamic homeland.

POW's Total Over 13,500

LD1009172890 Tehran IRNA in English 1638 GMT 10 Sep 90

[Text] Bakhtaran, Sep. 10, IRNA—The 15th batch of unregistered prisoners of war numbering 937 arrived home through the Khosravi border point today, taking past the 13,500 mark the number of unregistered POWs released by Iraq so far.

Simultaneously, the same number of Iraqi POWs crossed over to Mandhariyeh on the other side of the border. The prisoner swap began August 17, following Saddam Husayn's acceptance of the Islamic Republic's terms for peace.

Officials Seize Two Drug Consignments

LD0609133390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 6 Sep 90

[Text] Two bulk consignments of drugs, consisting of a total of 1,100 kgs of heroin, opium, and hashish, were found by the guards of the Kerman Islamic Revolution Committee during the Zafar-3 exercises. The two consignments had been loaded in the in the Province of Sistan va Baluchestan and were on their way to Tehran.

The guards tracked down [the smugglers] and later, at an opportune time, impounded the two consignments and arrested the trafficking network agents. One of the consignments consists of 870 kgs of hashish placed in a sugar consignment. Tracking down bulk consignments of drugs handled by armed smugglers in eastern Iran is in line with the policy of the Islamic Revolution Committee: This policy seeks to discover the drugs before they come to the hinterland to be distributed among the pushers.

Further on Drug Operations

LD0909143190 Tehran IRNA in English 1319 GMT 9 Sep 90

[Text] Tehran, Sept. 9, IRNA—Eleven drug trafficking gangs were busted and smugglers caught with 2,215 kgs of narcotics in the weeklong Zafar-3 operations launched nation-wide by the Islamic Revolution's Committees (IRC) personnel last week. "During the operations, a ringleader whose 45-member band had already been caught with two tons of narcotics had to commit suicide at mountanous regions of Bakhtaran Province after finding himself beseiged by IRC personnel," the IRC deputy commander said here today.

Mohammad Zaeri, a deputy for intelligence and operations told a press conference here that one of the notorious bandits in Sistan- Baluchestan Province called Khaduk was killed in a clash with the revolutionary committeemen. Kaduk was involved in several cases of pre-mediated murder inlcuding killing of a teacher in the region by burying him alive, illegal arms and drugs dealings, kidnapping and armed robbery, he said.

Zaeri went on to say that the IRC personnel also smashed a drug trafficking gang in the southeastern province of Sistan-Baluchestan last week, seizing 111 kgs of heroin, five kilos of opium and four guns. Also nine smugglers including several foreign nationals were arrested and 360 kgs of opium seized from them in Tehran last week, he said. In Khuzestan Province, he said, six smugglers were caught with 160 kgs of opium and two of Nurmohammad Naroei's gang responsible for the killing of 11 committeemen were killed in Kerman Province.

*Iraqis Continue To Hold Occupied Land

90AS0360A London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 pp 1, 8, 9

[Text] Even though the withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from Iranian soil upon the sudden and unilateral decision of Saddam Husayn began on midnight Thursday, 25 Mordar (16 August) in Shalamcheh, the Iraqis have still refused to transfer Iranian occupied lands and have retained them, leaving their border guards.

The withdrawal of the Iraqi forces from 2,600 square km of Iranian land began at 10:30 PM on Thursday, 25 Mordad [16 August], following the publication of the letter of Saddam Husayn to Hashemi-Rafsanjani on Baghdad radio. The first phase involved the Iraqi forces in the region of Shalamcheh and the border area of Ilam. The evacuation of the Iranian lands in the Khosravi, Bavisi, Meymak, Qal'eh-ye Gharbi, and Naftshahr border regions and the general area of Qasr-e Shirin began from 5:00 AM on Friday, 26 Mordad [17 August]. According to reports by new agencies, following their withdrawal from Iranian soil, the Iraqi forces hurriedly left for the southern regions of Iraq. The Iraqi forces, who apparently have been moved from the Iranian border to be positioned against the joint international forces, comprise 30 regiments.

The Iraqis had announced that the evacuation of Iranian soil would conclude in five days, but after the departure of the Iraqi forces, the border guards of Iraq remained, although in fewer numbers, on Iranian soil and refused to return the Iranian lands. The Iranian forces stationed on the border of Iraq also did not take any steps to enter occupied Iranian soil and are apparently awaiting the official return of the occupied lands in the presence of the UN representatives. However, in his last letter to Rafsanjani, Saddam Husayn did not explicitly refer to this issue. Political observers believe that every action by Saddam must be dealt with cautiously from the beginning and that we must wait to see what his future plans are.

In Saddam Husayn's last letter, in which he addresses Rafsanjani as "brother," he openly emphasized that he needs his forces on another front; therefore, he has decided to end his differences with Iran and to recognize the 1975 Algiers agreement. Saddam Husayn's emphasis on this point shows that he was not at all interested in returning Iranian lands and recognizing the rights of Iran and that he has submitted to this action under increasing international pressure, particularly by the United States, to overthrow him.

The letter of Saddam Husayn was in response to the letter which Rafsanjani wrote to Saddam Husayn on 17 Mordad 1369 [8 August 1990] in response to the 8 Mordad [30 July] letter. In his last letter, Saddam cleverly accepted what Rafsanjani had discussed in his letter and yielded to issues that were summarized in that letter. At the same time, Rafsanjani's letter lacks the necessary strength to protect the rights of Iran and fails, for example, to even raise the issue of the damages inflicted on Iran in its war with Iraq and does not prohibit Iraq from renewing its claims against Iranian lands in the future.

According to experts on Iran, the regime of the Islamic Republic and the political organization of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has, as usual, failed to show competence and has lost the opportunity to make Saddam deny all his futile claims on Iran. According to these experts, although at any given time the last word belongs to the military and political power of one side, anticipation of these issues is very necessary for Iran, because Saddam Husayn has made baseless claims in the past 10 years on Khuzestan, Arvandrud, and the three Iranian islands. He must be made to withdraw his claims today. This must be done in addition to determining the issue of the aggressor and the payment of war reparations to Iran. These experts say that now that Iraq has approached Iran from a position of weakness, strong treaties must be signed with him to secure the rights of Iran so that neither he nor his successors can escape the payment of reparations or the recognition of the national rights of Iran.

Text of Letter of Saddam Husayn

The letter of Saddam Husayn to Hashemi-Rafsanjani, which was broadcast at 10:30 AM on Thursday, 25 Mordad [16 August] over Baghdad radio is as follows:

In the name of God the compassionate and the merciful.

Your Excellency, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani, president of the Islamic Republic of Iran,

With reliance on Almighty God and in order to eliminate the obstacles that exist on the path of opening brotherly relations with all Muslims, including the Muslim brothers of Iran, and in order to open the way for serious action among all the faithful brothers to confront the evils with ill will directed towards the Muslims and the Arab nation, and in order for Iraq and Iran to be removed from any sort of imposition or political games of the evil global powers and those who follow them in the region, and in harmony with the spirit of initiative presented on 12 August 1990, with which we announced the desire for a lasting and overall peace in the region, and in order for no excuse, sensitivity or suspicion to remain, and also to ensure that the resources of Iraq are not far from the great confrontation scene so that they can be employed for goals that are held in common by the noble Muslims and Arabs, and in order for those with good will to find their way to restore normal relations between Iran and Iraq, and as a result of the direct negotiations from our epic date of 21/4/1990 in regard to your last letter of 8 August 1990 as a final and clear solution which would leave no place for doubt, we have made the following decisions:

1. Based on your proposal in the response letter dated 8 August 1990 received by our representative in Geneva, Ibrahim al-Takriti, from your representative, Mr. Sirus Naseri, we agree to the terms of the 1975 treaty in conjunction with the content of the letter of 30 July 1990, particularly concerning the exchange of prisoners, and paragraphs six and seven or Resolution 598 of the Security Council as a basis for activities.

2. Based on what has been stated in the first paragraph of this letter and in the letter dated 30 July 1990, we shall send a delegation to Tehran or you may send a delegation to Baghdad to prepare the agreements for signature at the desired level.

3. As an indication of our good will, from Friday 17 August, 26/5/69, we will start the withdrawal and recall of our forces from your borders. We will only leave symbolic forces as guards and border police to carry out their daily duties under normal circumstances.

4. All the war prisoners in Iran and Iraq will be exchanged immediately and completely. This will be carried out through land borders including Khaneqayan and Qasr-e Shirin and areas that are agreed upon by both sides. We shall start this on Friday, 17 August of this year.

Brother President 'Ali Akbar Hashemi, with these decisions, everything is clear. All your demands and the issues you emphasized have been met. Nothing remains but for the agreements to be published and for each of us—from clear positions in a new life in which Islamic principles govern, brotherly rights are honored, and the aggressors who intend to fish in muddy waters are driven away from our shores and we are able, alongside our other problems of life—to cooperate in making the Gulf a sea of peace and security, devoid of the foreign battleships and foreign forces that are sitting in ambush. God is great and thanks be to God.
Saddam Husayn, president of Iraq
23 Muharram 1411—14 August 1990 [passage omitted]

According to political experts, considering that the complete texts of the previous letters of Rafsanjani and Saddam Husayn to each other have not yet been published and that the public has not been informed of their secret negotiations, at the present the final results cannot be judged.

*Thousands of Iranians Residing in Kuwait Return

90AS0360M London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

[Text] On Sunday, 28 Mordad [19 August], 5,000 Iranians residing in Kuwait returned to Iran through Shalamcheh. These Iranians were transferred under the supervision of Iraqi officials from Kuwait to Shalamcheh and sent to Iran as a good will gesture.

The issue of the exit of Iranians residing in Kuwait and their return to their homeland was raised after the recent change in the position of Iraq with regard to making peace with Iran and the withdrawal of the army of that country from the occupied areas of our country.

Officials of the Islamic Republic regime had expressed consideration for Iranians residing in Kuwait only three days before the announcement of peace by Iraq and had turned to the International Red Cross to rescue them from Kuwait. But, fortunately, the change in position of the regime of Iraq vis-a-vis Iran compensated for the shortcomings and negligence of the officials of the regime of the Islamic Republic in regard to our compatriots residing in Kuwait. Just one week earlier, the negligence and lack of attention of the regime of the Islamic Republic regarding the fate of the Iranians residing in Kuwait was criticized in an editorial in KEYHAN (London). Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian monarch, had also sent a message concerning this matter a few days earlier.

The spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic claimed last Monday: "Since the beginning of the occupation of Kuwait, making use of all resources and various communication channels, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs has most sensitively followed the situation and condition of Iranians residing in Kuwait and continues its efforts in this important matter of protecting the lives and property of Iranian citizens in Kuwait."

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs had not explained why there had been no talk about or issuance of communiques concerning the fate of the Iranian residents of Kuwait and the steps taken to protect their lives up to that time.

The spokesman of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Islamic Republic had said: "Unfortunately, due to the severance of communications between Kuwait and the outside world, we have received no precise reports concerning the conditions of Iranians residing in that country."

At the same time, all the foreign embassies in Kuwait had taken serious steps to guide and protect the citizens of their countries, and their governments had by various means, including contacts and conversations with those who had succeeded in leaving Kuwait and arriving in Bahrain, Jordan, or Saudi Arabia, been able to obtain rather precise information about the fate of their citizens.

It should be pointed out that the 5,000 Iranians residing in Kuwait who returned to Iran through Shalamcheh under the supervision of the Iraqis comprise only a small portion of Iranians residing in that country.

*First Domestically Built Maritime Bus Launched

90AS0377F Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 26 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] **The first maritime catamaran bus, called "the Yaraq 10 Boat," has been built in Iran and experimentally launched. This maritime bus, which cost about 8.5 million tomans, can carry 36 passengers, 30 crew members, and a quantity of freight.**

Our correspondent reports that this maritime bus was launched yesterday afternoon in ceremonies attended by several officials of the Ports and Shipping Organization and the nation's maritime organizations at Freedom Stadium Lake.

Malek 'Alimohammadi, designer and technical director of the Amvaj-e Yaraq Maritime Navigation Services Company (producer of this vessel) said in an interview with our correspondent: The construction of the maritime bus (the Yaraq 10 Boat), which is 10.8 meters long, 3.8 meters wide, with 80 centimeters of water displacement and a speed of 32 nautical knots, was begun a year ago by this company's specialists, and was successfully completed at a cost of more than 8.5 million tomans.

He noted that this company plans to produce one Yaraq 10 (maritime bus) per month in the future. He announced that the price of comparable foreign vessels is between $400,000 and $500,000, and he added: If the foreign exchange is allocated, this company can produce maritime buses at a cost of between $150,000 and $160,000, and provide them to maritime organizations.

*Qom Lecturers Support Assembly of Experts

90AS0377G Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 23 Jul 90 p 2

[Text] Qom—KEYHAN correspondent: The Qom Theological Lecturers Association, in a proclamation for the arrival of the month of Moharram [23 July-22 August], announced its full support for the Assembly of Experts and its recent enactments. The proclamation says: The Assembly of Experts, which by order of the exalted leader in the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran is one of the most fateful and important organizations in the government, and none of the pillars of the Islamic Republic of Iran have such importance, is a blessed and exalted assembly for the world of Islam. Praise God, at the most sensitive point in the history of the revolution, it carried out its great mission in the best manner. In its recent fruitful measures, it has secured and strengthened as much as possible the future of the government and this sacred organization, and protected them from the aggression and greed of unsound individuals. The Qom Theological Lecturers Association in this proclamation announced its unqualified support for the unparalleled efforts and the recent measures taken by this blessed assembly, and from God it prayed for greater success every day from the Council of Guardians, this most sound assembly for dealing with the affairs assigned to it, in carrying out this critical and heavy responsibility. As the proclamation from the Qom Theological Lecturers Association continues, it says, in the words of the exalted leader, those whose writings and words are seen and heard by the public must not abuse the things they say. To attribute vain and unfounded methods to the enactments of the respected Assembly of Experts or the ceaseless efforts of the respected government is not a mistake towards which our alert nation can be indifferent.

Based on this report, in this statement, along with emphasis on the necessity of having mourning ceremonies as glorious as possible in the month of Moharram, the necessity of obeying and supporting the commands of the leader of the revolution and the programs of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran was also emphasized.

*Deputy President on Presale of Petrochemicals

*90AS0360Q London KEYHAN in Persian
23 Aug 90 p 4*

[Address by Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization, to foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires; date and place not specified]

[Text] "The Islamic Republic welcomes all resources possible within the framework of bilateral and multilateral cooperation in order to achieve the goals of the first national development plan. For this purpose, the Central Bank has been given the necessary permission to make commitments at a level of $7.5 billion for the purpose of providing the foreign currency resources to complete and carry out industrial and production investments."

The above statement was made some time ago by Rowghani-Zanjani, the head of the Plan and Budget Organization, to foreign ambassadors and charges d'affaires. He said: "In 1990, international studies estimated the oil reserves of the world to be 1007 billion barrels, of which Iran alone has 92.8 billion barrels, which is 10 percent of these resources."

Mas'ud Rowghani-Zanjani added: "The goals of the first developmental plan include an average gross domestic growth level of 8.1 percent, an average annual investment growth of 11.6 percent, fighting inflation and bringing the rate to 9.8 percent in 1372 [21 March 1993-20 March 1994], and the creation of about 400,000 new jobs."

The head of the Plan and Budget Organization of the Islamic Republic pointed out that the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic has been given permission to generate commitments at a ceiling of $1.5 billion in order to develop sugar cane cultivation and industrial units.

He added: "In addition, permission to sign up to $3 billion in long-term credit agreements for the creation of four dams in the country is one of the projected plans within the framework of the five-year developmental plan."

In continuation, Rowghani-Zanjani mentioned the presale of the country's petrochemical products of up to $2.2 billion and the use of mutual exchange of up to $10 billion, in order to eliminate some of the needs of the industrial sector, and related investments and signing necessary agreements with competent foreign companies up to a ceiling of $3.7 billion, in order to provide natural gas and make use of the Pars and south Pars natural gas fields.

*Volume of Trade With Thailand Increased

90AS0377E Tehran KEYHAN in Persian
11 Aug 90 p 18

[Text] **In the first round of talks with the deputy foreign minister of Thailand and his delegation and the deputy foreign minister for Asian and Pacific affairs, the subjects of assistance in political, commercial, agricultural, and technical areas between the two nations were discussed and views were exchanged.**

The ISLAMIC REPUBLIC NEWS AGENCY reports that this delegation, which is composed of 13 political officials, six private sector officials, and nine news reporters, came to Tehran the day before yesterday, and during their stay in Tehran they are to meet and speak with high officials in our country. **The Thai Deputy Foreign Minister's Press Conference**

Last night the Thai deputy foreign minister gave an international press conference. He said: Our goal will be to discuss the bilateral exchange of technology and investment. Concerning the volume of trade between Iran and Thailand, the supervisor of Thailand's political and economic delegation said: Last year the total of exchanges between the two countries reached $200 million, of which $150 million will be Thailand's exports to Iran, the rest this country's imports from Iran.

He added: What motivated us to go to Iran and sign the note of mutual understanding was the desire to increase the volume of trade, and the annual meetings that will be held in Bangkok and Tehran can be effective in the expansion of these relations.

Concerning the purchase of oil, he said: Although Thailand buys only ten percent of the oil it needs from the Persian Gulf nations, on this trip we will discuss the purchase of oil with officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, and our nation's prime minister, who will go to Tehran in the near future, will follow up on this discussion.

*Value of Thailand Trade Reaches $200 Million

90AS0360O London KEYHAN in Persian
23 Aug 90 p 4

[Interview with the deputy minister of foreign affairs of Thailand by the press; date and place not given]

[Text] Thailand has purchased about $50 million worth of goods from the Islamic Republic in exchange for exporting goods valued at $150 million to that country. A major portion of the exports of Thailand to the Islamic Republic is comprised of consumer goods produced in that country, foodstuff, and agricultural products. In exchange for goods produced in Thailand, the Islamic Republic has exported crude oil and other minerals and consumer goods. The deputy minister of foreign affairs of Thailand, who left Tehran early last week after a visit of a few days, took part in a press conference and said that although his country only purchases 10 percent of the oil it needs from the Persian Gulf region, nevertheless, he hopes the negotiations with the oil officials of the Islamic Republic will result in signing an agreement for the purchase of larger amounts of crude oil produced in Iran.

The deputy minister of foreign affairs of Thailand said that the prime minister of that country will soon travel to Tehran to negotiate with officials of the Islamic Republic concerning the expansion of economic relations and increase in trade between Tehran and Bangkok.

The above-mentioned official told reporters: "The purpose in the visit of the economic delegation of Thailand to Tehran and the signing of an agreement is to increase the value of commercial exchange between the two countries."

*Commentary on New Crisis in Leadership

90AS0360U Stockholm NAMEH-YE MARDOM
in Persian 31 Jul 90 pp 1-2

[Interview with 'Ali Akbar Rafsanjani in mid-August; date, place and interviewer not specified]

[Text] The government structure based on "velayat-e faqih" [guardianship, rule of the supreme jurisconsult] enters a new phase of its crisis. At the time of the death of Khomeyni, the fight among the major factions was over his successor and the fate of "velayat-e faqih". Since his death, the actions and the domain of power and responsibilities of the "vali-ye faqih" [supreme jurisconsult] are also bases for conflict.

After the election of Khamene'i as the "vali-ye faqih," Rafsanjani reveals in an interview that he personally believed in a "leadership council," but the Assembly of Experts after "much consultation and discussion" found it appropriate to choose one person as the leader. It is understandable that both the balance of forces in the government and the inescapable reliance of the regime on individual dictatorship placed Khamene'i in such a position. Even though this selection did not please Rafsanjani, he personally has to defend the "velayat" [rule, guardianship] of Khamene'i. Last week in a gathering of the Friday imams on the occasion of the coming of Moharram, he said:

"He (Khamene'i) is the most distinguished figure in Islamic studies in the fullest sense, and he is unequivocally a religious jurist, knowledgeable of Islam and the texts. When I look at any face among the valuable faces of the clerics, there is no other such personality who possesses all the distinguished characteristics...and by selecting him, the Assembly of Experts made an important and interesting decision. Islam and its ideals and principle goals are now advancing with more power."

(Voice of the Islamic Republic, 1/5/69 [23 July 1990])

The reason for this defense must be sought in the new phase of the crisis that has devoured not only the "guardianship" of Khamene'i but the whole regime. It was predictable that the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i coalition to fill the void created by Khomeyni's death in the early months would appear to be acceptable to the whole regime and the quarrel over power overshadowed by reorganization of the factions. But this "calm before the storm" did not last long, and in the course of selecting the members of Rafsanjani's Cabinet, which was considered the start of "de-Khomeynization" in the governmental structure, which Khamene'i would have to defend, the baselessness of the claim of unity among the heads of the regime was proven and once again the conflict among the factions became more apparent. Attacks on Khamene'i in the theological schools and the Majles and accusing him of "deviating from Khomeyni's path" escalated during his defense of the five-year plan of Rafsanjani's government.

This time, not only was Khamene'i's lack of qualifications as a source of emulation, which had apparently been solved with a "revision of the Constitution," questioned but his religious jurisprudence in terms of theological issues as well. This is when the battle for the "guardianship" of Khamene'i began, and marches of the right and left, meetings and the issuance of preordained and threatening resolutions were organized in his support. The "extremists," who had been driven back in the selection of the "vali-ye faqih," the "president" and the "new government" now strengthened their positions in the Majles and other institutions and organizations. Ahmad Khomeyni, "the memento of the Imam" and the "key keeper" of his house, who carries the responsibility for guarding "Khomeyni's character" on his own shoulders and is inclined to be closer to the "extremist" circles, requested that Khamene'i follow "Khomeyni's path" and tried to influence the course of events. It was not without reason that Khamene'i took their views more seriously in his positions, appeasing the "extremists" and maneuvering, and in the course of the resurfacing of the issue considered valid the decree for the killing of Salman Rushdie, which Rafsanjani had termed the ruling of an expert. Then in connection with the release of the American hostages in Lebanon, for which Rafsanjani and his supporters were strongly attacked, he supported the position of the extremists in the role of "Khomeyni's successor". He considered the decree for the killing of Salman Rushdie necessary to be carried out and termed 'Ata'ollah Mohajerani, Rafsanjani's deputy, and those who thought like him and had raised the issue of the necessity of open negotiations with the United States "frightened" and "simple-minded".

In this manner, the extremists confined the guardianship of Khamene'i within the framework of loyalty to "Khomeyni's path," an action that had begun last year with their sending a legislative bill to the Majles. This bill emphasized the necessity of observing and implementing Khomeyni's last will and testament by the various government organizations as the policy line of the Islamic Republic regime in the present and future. The situation reached the point that in the ceremonies commemorating the anniversary of Khomeyni's death, each faction rose up in competition to "show that it follows Khomeyni's path" and Rafsanjani and Khamene'i did not neglect even for one moment emphasis on the necessity of moving on the "line of the Imam".

But it was obvious that the Rafsanjani-Khamene'i alliance supported by the RESALAT group would not in actuality step into the arena determined by the "extremists" for factional fighting. Instead, they would use Khamene'i's "guardianship" as a lever to advance their political goals. In this connection, the RESALAT faction once again posed the issue of "absolute velayat-e faqih" and Azari-Qomi, the leader of this group who during Khomeyni's time expressed sentiments against the absolutism of the "guardianship," now in RESALAT writes about the necessity of the "absolutism of Khamene'i's guardianship".

If the "extremists" bring up the principle of "velayat-e faqih" despite the authority afforded the guardian in the Constitution of the IRI [Islamic Republic of Iran] in terms of moving within the framework of "Khomeyni's charter" and with the goal of controlling the "moderates," Rafsanjani, Khamene'i, and their followers and supporters, including the RESALAT faction, will interpret this principle in terms of the authority of the religious guardian for the purpose of "de-Khomeynization" and purging the governmental structure of their rivals and opponents and preparing the grounds for the implementation of their policies. Hence, the differences and conflicts center on an interpretation of the authority of the "vali-ye faqih" and its relationship with "Khomeyni's charter". The most recent example in this connection concerns the determination of a foreign policy framework for the Islamic Republic which was manifested in the meetings of the leaders of the regime with the ambassadors and charges d'affaires abroad. In these meetings (end of last week), Rafsanjani asked the above-mentioned representatives and officials of the Foreign Ministry to boldly advance the foreign policy of the country (meaning the foreign policy of his group). Yazdi, the head of the judicial branch, also said that diplomatic representatives must follow the policies devised by the Foreign Ministry. However, Karrubi, who is one of the leaders of the extremists, emphasized in the same meetings that the "directives of the Imam" are the most important indicator of the future actions of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

At the present, the "Assembly of Experts" and its future "elections" have turned into a power struggle among the factions. The composition of this assembly and the balance of forces in it are especially important because in the course of revision of the Constitution, the election of the "leader" was conferred on the Assembly of Experts. In fact, all issues related to the implementation of the principle of "velayat-e faqih" is related to this assembly. Last week, the "Council of Guardians" ratified an amendment concerning the elections of the Experts which elicited protests from the "extremists". For example, Mohtashami said in a harsh speech in the Majles that the new regulations will cause the Assembly of Experts to conform to only one faction, which in his opinion is contrary to "Khomeyni's goals".

But besides the quarrels among the factions and groupings within the regime about the authority and actions of Khamene'i, the main reason for the escalation of the crisis at the top of the government pyramid is related to the principle of "velayat-e faqih". Here we are not speaking at all about doubt or lack of trust in the "leadership" of Khamene'i inside and around the government, which was an issue long ago from the beginning of his appointment as the successor of Khomeyni. Rather, we are speaking about the principle of "velayat-e faqih," and the new problem stems from it, having dragged the relationship and the field of action of the factions in the government to a dead end.

While some of the "extremists" speak of the necessity of establishing social justice and achieving the goals of the Bahman [21 January-19 February] revolution and present the policies and actions of the rival faction as "closeness to the United States" and "continuation of dependence on the West," they themselves are behind the lack of belief in democracy, freedom, and pursuing the dictatorial principle of "velayat-e faqih" and the isolationist principle of "neither East nor West". In practice, they lack any political action and influence in saving the country from its present crisis. They accuse their rivals of not adhering to the "directives of Khomeyni," which the people turn away from more than ever before, and in fact propagandize unwittingly in the interest of their rivals. The "moderates," as well, under the leadership of Rafsanjani, who pursue the policy of exclusion and attracting domestic capital to rectify the disastrous economic situation, in practice face the restrictions stemming from the principle of "velayat-e faqih" and "Khomeyni's charter" and are unable to establish political stability and economic security for investors and provide the other requirements for capitalistic growth.

Here, the whole government and each faction within it struggles within the confines of the principle of "velayat-e faqih," and the political life of the structure based on this reactionary and dictatorial principle, which is contrary to the needs and requirements of the society and the spirit of our age, approaches destruction with each passing day.

*Ministry of Heavy Industries Appointments

90AS0377C Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 5 Aug 90 p 3

[Text] Dr. Nezhad-Hoseynian, minister of heavy industries, issued separate decrees appointing and assigning to employment Ahmad Ashraf Eslami as deputy minister for Majles affairs, Engineer Mehdi Mofidi as deputy minister for economic and commercial affairs, Dr. 'Abdol-Rahim Gavahi as deputy minister for international affairs, engineer Ahmad Nasri as supervisor of province affairs, and Dr. Yusef Hojjat as consultant to the minister.

*New Police Appointments Announced

90AS0377B Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 14 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] As proposed by the chief sheriff of the Islamic Republic and approved by the minister of the interior, new deputies and chiefs of sheriff and traffic control offices have been appointed.

The Sheriff Public Relations Office announced the following appointments:

- Brigadier-general Qena'ati, acting chief sheriff of the Islamic Republic.
- Second Brigadier-general Jamshid Moradian, consultant to the chief sheriff.
- Second Brigadier-general Mehdi Rikhtehgar, deputy sheriff for training.
- Second Brigadier-general Hormoz Ahmadi, administrative deputy sheriff.
- Second Brigadier-general Seyyed Abolqasem Sadat Khonsari, deputy sheriff for logistics and finance.
- Second Brigadier-general Reza 'Aliyari, military deputy sheriff.
- Second Brigadier-general Dr. Aqayi-Niya, commander of the Police University.

- Second Brigadier-general Ja'far Ja'fari, chief of the Sheriff's Bureau of Investigation.
- Colonel Nurollah Parviz-Nezhad, chief of the Sheriff's Secretariat.
- Colonel Abolfazl Rezayi, chief of the Office of the Chief Sheriff.
- Colonel Ebrahim Farjizadeh Angji, chief of the Sheriff's Cable Office.
- Second Brigadier-general Fathollah Haydari, successor to the chief of the Tehran Traffic Control Office.
- Second Brigadier-general Teymur Hasampur, training deputy for the Tehran Traffic Control Office.
- Colonel Mohammad-'Ali Rafi'iha, technical deputy at the Tehran Traffic Control Office.
- Colonel Parviz Ghia'i, administrative deputy at the Tehran Traffic Control Office.

*Further Announcements

90AS0377D Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian 29 Aug 90 p 4

[Text] In a decree from Hojjat ol-Eslam 'Abdollah-Nuri, minister of the interior, Reza Seyfollahi was appointed deputy minister of the interior for security and police affairs.

In a decree from the chief of Martyr Beheshti University, Qodratollah Moshayekhi-Karehrudi was appointed as this university's deputy chief for administrative and financial affairs.

*Martyr Foundation To Build University

90AS0360H London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] Sheykh Mehdi Karrubi, speaker of the Majles and head of the Martyr Foundation of the Islamic revolution, announced last Tuesday that the Martyr Foundation will build a university next to the tomb of Ayatollah Khomeyni and will accept students from next Mehr [23 September-22 October] in several fields from among the children of the martyrs. At present, a quota has been established for children of the martyrs of the war with Iraq to enter the universities and higher education institutions of the country.

*Graduates, Charges Permitted To Bring in Cars

90AS0360L London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 pp 1, 8

[Interview with Daryush Iranbodi, deputy director of customs of the Islamic Republic; date and place not specified]

[Text] In one of its recent meetings, the Cabinet of the Islamic Republic abolished the decision made in the meeting in Aban 1364 [23 October-21 November 1985] prohibiting the entry of student and government employee cars and announced that Iranian graduates of foreign universities as well as permanent officials of government organizations who serve abroad may from now on import cars when entering Iran for permanent residence.

The text of the announcement issued by the Cabinet of the government of the Islamic regime states: "Governmental ratification Number 60378, dated 12 July 1985, concerning the permit to import cars from abroad will once again be implemented for graduates residing abroad and permanent officials of government organizations abroad who have returned to the country since 8 September 1985 and have in no way engaged in importing cars."

According to the ratification in question, the entry of 1982 and newer-model cars from abroad shall be permitted by the permanent officials of government organizations as well as those graduates with a bachelor's or higher degree from an accredited foreign university approved by the Ministry of Culture and Higher Education who are eligible for the above-mentioned ratification and from this date on return to the country.

Simultaneous with the announcement of the permission of graduates and officials abroad to import foreign cars, the customs office of the Islamic Republic also announced the regulations for determining the price, customs taxes, and release of imported cars.

Daryush Iranbodi, the deputy director of customs of the Islamic Republic, who participated in a press conference, told reporters that the import of cars which had been prohibited earlier for a group of graduates and permanent employees of the Islamic Republic abroad is now free, in accordance with the ratification of the Cabinet. The above-mentioned official emphasized that individuals who meet the requirements may release their cars from customs after the payment of customs and commercial taxes.

The deputy director general of customs said in this interview that commercial taxes and customs fees will be calculated based on the value of the car and will be collected from the importer on a percentage basis.

Concerning the procedure for determining the price of imported cars, Daryush Iranbodi said: "The list prices for many imported cars are valuable to Iranian customs in determining the value and collecting commercial taxes and customs fees, and we have no problems in this regard. However, considering the prohibition on the import of cars in the past few years, not much activity has been carried out in the area of determining the price of various kinds of cars available on the world markets, and we do not have the prices of some of these cars."

The above-mentioned official added: Concerning the cars the list price of which is not available to customs, in order to control the receipt that the importer presents, we can contact the manufacturer of the car. Also, with a warrantee from the car owner, the car can be released, and after the list price is received from the factory the commercial tax and customs fees can be collected.

*Minister on Teaching, Facilities Problems

90AS0360K London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 4

[Report on interview with minister of education by unidentified reporters "at the start of the academic year" in Tehran]

[Text] "The problem of registration and collecting tuition is the result of insufficient funds. The present funds are not sufficient to operate the current affairs of the schools in the country and do not even meet the primary needs, such as water, electricity, and telephone. Last year, we asked the Majles to eliminate such costs as water, electricity, and telephone fees for schools or to allocate 35 billion rials in terms of the people's participation. Both proposals were rejected by the Majles."

The above statement was made some time ago by the minister of education of the Islamic regime in Tehran to the media. The interview with the minister of education took place at the start of the academic year and the schools' preparedness to register applicants wishing to continue their education has been regarded as a reflection of the people's anxiety in providing resources for the education of their children and their confronting the problem of space in schools, compulsory payment of large tuitions, and finally the refusal of school officials to register students under various pretexts.

In a part of his interview, the minister of education of the Islamic regime of Tehran referred to the need for payment of tuition to meet the expenses of schools and confessed to the inability of the regime to provide the educational budget of the country. He said: "We had announced to the schools that they should not collect tuition and that the amounts collected voluntarily on the basis of explanation and justification of expenses of the schools must have a specific separate account and that their use must be fully supervised. But, unfortunately, in certain cases we have faced transgressions by the administrators of schools or some members of parent-teacher associations."

The above mentioned official added: "Because, since the beginning of summer, we suspected that some of the administrators might force or pressure people to pay, we organized a special monitoring group for schools during registration." The minister of education of the regime referred to the financial problems of the Ministry of Education and the budget deficit, calling the perspective for the last months of the year worrisome and warning that if budget allocations are not made on time, next many classes will remain without teachers.

Reports received from Tehran and other cities indicate that many poor people in our country who do not have the resources to pay the educational expenses of their children have given up sending them to school, or they have been deprived of continuing their education after studying for only a short time. In connection with the increased drop-out rate, the minister of education of the regime said: "This problem does not stem from the collection of tuition. This phenomenon has social and cultural roots. For example, the question is raised easily in the minds of the young people and their families of whether the hardship one suffers to get a diploma or a doctoral degree is worth the ultimate results."

*Experts Estimate Repair of Sefid Rud Dam

90AS0360F London KEYHAN in Persian 23 Aug 90 p 2

[Text] French experts who have gone to Tehran to repair the Sefid Rud Dam have proposed to the Ministry of Energy that the water in this dam be reduced by two-thirds at the end of summer, after the rice harvest, in order to enable them to repair the vertical cracks in the dam.

The French experts anticipate that the repair of the dam and its water and electrical facilities, which were damaged during the Gilan and Zanjan earthquake, will take two years. The preliminary studies for the repair of Sepid [as published] Rud and the final cost estimate have not yet been completed.

If the dam is not repaired by next summer, the Province of Gilan will face a water shortage and the whole country will face electrical shortages.

*RESALAT Report on 15 Jul 90 Majles Session

90AS0302A Tehran RESALAT in Persian 16 Jul 90 p 5

[Text]

Single-Urgency Provision of the Plan to Support Higher Production Efforts by Farmers and Tribes Passed

Legal and Majles Bureau—In yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the Unemployed Insurance Bill was presented with double urgency. After explanations by the labor minister and remarks by the opponent and proponent deputies, the double urgency provision of the bill was put to a vote and was not passed. Consequently, the single urgency provision of the aforementioned bill was studied and, after being put to a vote, was passed by the Majles.

In continuation of this session, "the Bill for Correction of the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] National Budget for Correction of Three Categories of Credits in the 1369 Budget" was presented with double urgency. After remarks by the proponent and opponent deputies and the explanation of the government representative, the double urgency of the bill was put to vote and was passed.

According to RESALAT's parliamentary correspondent, the next item on the agenda was continuation of investigation of the plan for the method of implementation of Principal 175 of the Constitution in the area of supervision. The third article of this plan was passed by the deputies with the following text:

Article Three. The Supervision Council assigned to supervise the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran shall conduct the following tasks:

1. Supervision of the proper execution of all affairs of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran, giving it necessary advice concerning violations and deviations aimed at correcting the said affairs.
2. Supervising the executive policies designed to be implemented in the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic republic of Iran and announcement of corrective views to the council or head of the organization.
3. Supervision of the proper implementation of related laws in the Voice and Vision Organization.
4. Supervision in the creation or dismantling of any unit, branch, section, office, or representative office in the organization.
5. Supervision of ratification of contracts for domestic and foreign purchases of the organization.
6. Supervision of other matters which, according to the law, are tasked to and conducted by it.
7. Regular and continuous reporting of the conduct of affairs within the organization to the exalted leadership and the three branches of the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Note One. The administrator of the Voice and Vision is responsible for the implementation of the corrective views of the Supervision Council which are supported by the law and is obligated to adhere to the corrective views of this council for correct implementation of the law.

Note Two. The administrator of the Voice and Vision organization and his deputies, network managers, unit heads, sections, branches and representative offices abroad, and all other offices attached to the organization are obligated to extend their fullest cooperation in precise implementation of the duties of the Supervision Council with that organization and put the appropriate documents requested by it at its disposal.

Yesterday Afternoon's Open Session of the Islamic Consultative Majles

The open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was convened yesterday afternoon and presided by Hojjat ol-Eslam Val Moslemin Karrubi. During the session, the legal plan for implementation of Principal 175 of the Constitution in the area of supervision was studied and the plan was passed by the deputies as follows:

Article Four. In case of disregard to the corrective views of the Supervision Council and failure by the heads of the Voice and Vision Organization of the Islamic Republic of Iran to stop violations, deviations, and adverse trends concerning the organization, the council shall present a full report of violations to the exalted leadership.

Note One. Reports by the Supervision Council shall be read in a Majles session out-of-turn of its weekly time schedule for the information of the deputies of the Islamic Consultative Majles.

Article Five. The government is obligated to allocate and provide the annual credit required by the Supervision Council in the form of aid under a separate category of the annual budget bill.

Note—The credit required by the Supervision Council shall be provided from the total credits of the Voice and Vision Organization until the end of the current [fiscal] year.

Article Six. All laws and guidelines contrary to this law shall be null and void.

Note—This law is enforceable as of the date of formation of the council.

The next item on the agenda of the open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was the first round of consultations by the Trade and Distribution Affairs Commission concerning the legal plan for the Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines of the Islamic Republic of Iran. Opponents and proponents of the bill spoke in this regard and continuation of discussions was postponed to the next open session of the Majles.

The last item on the agenda was presentation to the Majles, with a single urgency, of the plan to support higher production efforts by farmers and tribes. The single-urgency provision of the plan was put to vote and was passed.

Bahonar, the Representative of the People of Tehran

The first pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Mohammad Reza Bahonar, the representative of the people of Tehran. In his speech, he offered his congratulations on the occasion of the glorious Id-e Ghadir-e Khom [the festival of the appointment of 'Ali as the Prophet's successor; the incident took place near a pool known as Ghadir-e Khom between Mecca and al-Madinah] to the followers of the path of velayat [rule by jurisconsult, guidance] and imamat and stated: The heroic and Moslem people of Iran have tasted the sweetness of the rule of velayat and imamat. This has given them glory and pride and went to the extent that they became the banner holders of the Islamic Revolution in the world and turned imperial Iran, submissive and superstitious, into the motherland of Islam.

What made Imperial Iran the center of the global Islamic Revolution was the rising of the Imam as the shining sun in the cloak of velayat and manifestation of the leadership in the relationship between the imam and the nation. We have had many sources of emulation and distinguished religious scholars in the history of the Shiites. However, since the relationship was always, and only, that of follower and guide, none of the sources of emulation were suitable to wear the cloak of velayat, which is the manifestation of the imamat as was demonstrated in Ghadir-e Khom. Thus, they were incapable of causing any fundamental transformation in the global political situation—or even in a small town for that matter—due to the fact that the regime of velayat had been lost in memories. We also saw that Islam, void of velayat, is like an inside-out coat which was worn by tyrannical rulers.

The tyrannical and dependent rulers adopted titles such as "protector of Islam", "shadow of God", and "servants of the two holy shrines", while enslaving the innocent of the history. They forced upon the people American Islam in place of pure Mohammadan Islam. Here is the clear exemplification of the sacred verse of...[Arabic—Koranic Verse]...that Islam without the Imamat and Velayat is only a beginning and incomplete.

The enemies of Islam and America recognized this as soon as the imam's thoughts concerning velayat were recorded. They mobilized all their might to discolor velayat and separate the imam from Imamat, and for not one moment did they relent from this satanic behavior, especially after the victory of the revolution.

When it became evident during the process of composing the Constitution that velayat-e faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] holds the most crucial and the highest place, they conspired to dissolve the Council of Experts. Even after the ratification of the Constitution, all grouplets—liberals, the National Front, Bani Sadr, the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq], and all others who had sold themselves—could not hide their anger about velayat-e faqih.

Also, 11 years after the victory of the Islamic Revolution, the 90-person grouplet—the so-called Society for the Defense of Human Rights—in coordination and cooperation with the American Congress and [Jimmy] Carter, interprets Velayat-e Faqih as the "inherited rule of mullahs". Have no doubt that they will not, and neither should it be expected of global arrogance to divert the sharp edge of their attack on velayat-e faqih, this pillar of the regime and the bestower of honor upon the world Moslems. Regretfully, in this connection, similar moves can be observed in the behavior of some of the apparently friendly forces, which is either as a result of their silliness and ignorance or calculated and treacherous.

The speaker then criticized an article published in KEYHAN HAVA'I and said: In one of its recent issues, KEYHAN HAVA'I published an article in which—after an analytical prelude about the impressions developing from the loss of the imam [Khomeyni] and the so called dilution of the role of leadership—it resonates the wishes of arrogance which is, precisely, the forecast of dilution of leadership. The writer is so impatient that he finally spills his true sentiment and writes: "No revolution can, in the long term, maintain its genuineness without improving the lot of the people. However, the underlying factor in this issue is that, for economic growth and betterment, there is need for certain ideological alterations. This is exactly what we are witnessing in the communist world."

In short, it implies that with the passing of the imam, the regime of Velayat has been diluted and a need for reviewing the ideology is being felt. In other words, its fate is similar to that of communism. However, in his evaluation, the writer disregards the fact that socialism lost its pivotal slogan of the past two centuries which denoted that "religion is the opium of nations". Also, it lost in its struggle to disprove the noble nature of man—which is God-seeking—to concentrate the economy within the government, against financial corruptions resulting from this concentration and the killing of human motivations for productivity and hard work.

In conclusion, KEYHAN HAVA'I labels as "respectful" the pure sentiments of the writer towards the imam. Despite its apparent attempt to respond to the shortcomings of the article, however, it can be easily said that it has violated the principal of "avoiding disrespect toward the position of Velayat in the official national media". This is regretful since this publication is the sole speaker of the revolution and the intellectual link with the students and fans of the Islamic Revolution in many countries of the world. Thus, it has endorsed the views of the main enemies of the revolution.

Our great late imam in the position of humility stated: "Better to call me a servant than leader." However, in confrontation of the slightest hint of weakening velayat-e faqih, he roared like a lion and would not tolerate the slightest deviation from the definition, even from those closest to the revolution.

In order to safeguard this most noble inheritance of the imam, it is expected of the esteemed minister of Islamic guidance, as the ultimate overseer of KEYHAN, and other officials of this newspaper—especially the Media Supervision Commission—to deal with such violations in an effective way suited to the magnitude of the violation so that, God forbid, silence is not regarded as empathy.

In another part of his speech, he pointed out the writings of BAYAN magazine and said: Regretfully, these satanic and suspicious moves are being observed in other places as well. For example, a man in the first issue of BAYAN says: "Now, due to the demise of the imam, our revolutionary society is in need of an organization that is not susceptible to the political pressures and noise, the chants and propaganda bombardments of foreign voices—which, regretfully, has the most devastating effects on the decisions of decision-makers and the policies of politicians—can provide correct analysis of political, cultural, economic, and social issues of the Islamic World and others."

These words are coming from a man who knows for sure that determination of the framework for principal policies of the regime according to the Constitution and our beliefs as Shiites are duties of jurisprudence. This person, on the other hand, in his various speeches has expressed his sincerity toward the leader and pride in adhering to his orders. Accepting so much forgetfulness may be difficult but is not impossible.

In another part of his remarks [in BAYAN], the guidance of the guardian is placed next to views of someone like myself and by calling it "Viewpoints" in an absolute way explains that: "Discussing viewpoints does not necessarily indicate their endorsement or rejection." Is this also as a result of the forgetfulness of the official in charge? We hope that it is so. We hope that such flagrant deviations are corrected in the future writings of the author and that he expresses his regret and apologizes to the guardian as well as the Islamic nation. This is to avoid the impression that the views of the gentleman resemble the type of Islam that is favored by America. There should be no doubt that in case of dilution of the regime of guardianship, America will be happy even with this government and this Majles. In this regard, the wise statement of our late Imam appears before the eyes and forms in the heart who said to His Eminence Ayatollah Meshkini: "Please tell my revolutionary children that radicalism does not result in good. If they are not absorbed in societies of the esteemed jurists, in the future they will fall prey to those who propagate American Islam."

Concerning the valuable presence of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution among the quake victims, Mr. Bahonar said: The presence of the exalted leader of the Islamic revolution among the afflicted as a result of the earthquake is heart warming and causes happiness and pride among the Islamic nation. This is a very suitable soothing remedy on the wounds of the afflicted. It reminded all of the tears of 'Ali (peace be upon him) upon the innocence of the people and his efforts to alleviate their problems. This is what is to be expected from the successor of the lord of the pious and the representative of the absent imam (may God speed his appearance). May God maintain his blessed shadow over the heads of the innocent Moslems of the world.

In his remarks he also added: The government's organized and speedy assistance to the afflicted of this calamity, and the selfless giving of the people, as always, and the humanitarian moves of nations and foreign governments by maintaining political positions is commendable and appreciated.

It is necessary that Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani's government, by speedy design and implementation of temporary housing before the cold season, act in such a way that the building materials used for temporary housing are not for one-time use only and after completion of the task in this instance, they may be collected and re-used in similar situations.

Second, in the design and implementation of reconstruction plans, the utilization of studies of comprehensive plans, soil tests, and scientific and logical expansion of villages, along with the best use of inherent forces in this fertile region of our country, which has agricultural and animal husbandry characteristics, should not be disregarded. Although there is a possibility of temporary placement, the quality of reconstruction should not be sacrificed for speed and action.

The representative of the people of Tehran, in another part of his remarks, referred to the economic policies of the government and said: Although the economic, monetary, and banking policies of the government may be criticized in some instances, the fundamental moves for correcting the framework of the economy and the creation of movement in production is commendable. The eye-catching increase in production during the past year, the declining trend of borrowing in the Five-Year Plan, and reducing the rate of increase in the value of foreign exchange from 30-50 percent to six percent during the past year, collecting over 100 billion tomans of unruly cash, and practical encouragement in regard to expansion of exports, are activities that will leave their mark on the society one after another. Anyhow, some dust may rise during the razing for the reconstruction of any building. Crying and complaining about the dust is the sole specialty of those who nag.

As an example, over five million people sustain themselves through rug-making, which is a major export item. Beside every rug-weaving loom, nearly thirty other jobs are created. The recent decision of the government to increase the price of foreign exchange for export, will increase the income of a rug-maker who is among the most deprived strata of the society.

It will be such that the hourly income of a skilled rug-weaver will become higher than the average salary of a government employee, a high school teacher, or even a shop owner. However, in this way some will gain good and high incomes with little effort. This is a giant step in the realization of social justice in conjunction with economic expansion.

It also becomes clear that economic expansion in many instances is congruent with the spread of social justice. Tangent to this issue is also a negative perimeter. The price of exportable rugs will rise in the domestic market, but this [discomfort] must be endured. Here the difference in approach is that complainers will complain that the price of rugs have gone up.

If we wish to have growth in the export of non-oil goods, one of the ways is to expand the export of goods which are in our monopoly—such as rugs, pistachios, saffron, caviar, and....

The problem of agriculture may be resolved with slogans overnight; also, in the language of slogan-makers it may be possible to curse 15,000 billion [rials] in deficit and add to it on a daily basis. But a working government can reduce a percentage of it annually.

In the language of the slogan-makers it is possible to verbally clash with the idea of borrowing from the banking system and add a few billion to it every year. But in a working government, based on the approved plan, five years is needed in order to reduce the debt to zero and to deal with other such matters that are not suited to this discussion.

Mr. Bahonar remarked: This matter should be noted for the reason that some economic bottlenecks and sluggishness in the process of reforms and some mistakes do exist. These are results of many factors such as lack of consultations and exchange of views with experts in the matter and university professors in conjunction with limiting major decisions within small collections and limited analysis.

Another reason is lack of conviction on the part of some of the executives in the second and third echelons towards the adopted policies by the Majles and the government. Despite great respect for the piety of the majority of these officials, i.e. deputy ministers, managing directors of large government companies, director generals, governor-generals, banking officials, and others, it is possible that some, as a result of not believing in the policies, may be slow in the implementation of their work and, God Forbid, instead of oiling the wheels of the economy, they may throw a wrench in them. This factor necessitates a serious and precise re-evaluation of appointments and possible changes.

In conclusion, he stated: While appreciating the decisiveness of the judicial system concerning the investigation of criminal cases and financial corruption, for the indictment of the likes of Sharifiyun, it is necessary that the Islamic Consultative Majles act expeditiously to define and determine the punishments for economic terrorists in order that the judicial system has an open hand to try these corrupt individuals and sentence them to the most severe punishments.

Malayer Deputy: For Once the Regime Must Utilize the Sword of Justice in Place of Heedless Advice

Mr. 'Abdollah Nowruzi, the representative of the people of Malayer, was the second and last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. At the onset, while presenting his greetings to the holy spirit of Imam Khomeyni, he congratulated the exalted leadership and the Iranian people on the occasion of Id-e Ghadir. He also prayed for the souls of the quake victims and the late Mr. Eftekhari, the representative of the people of Fuman, in the Islamic Consultative Majles.

In reference to the recent trip of Mr. Karrubi to Hamadan Province, after thanking him he remarked: Hamadan province is a susceptible and suitable area for various undertakings such as manpower training, agriculture, animal husbandry, industry, and mining. So far, regretfully—as statistics show—not much attention has been paid to it. I say with confidence that any rudimentary investment—such as creation and expansion of universities, harnessing of waters, and supporting the agriculture, industry, and mining—will bear immediate fruits while requiring low amortization. In this regard, I thank the esteemed speaker of the Majles for issuing the appropriate orders aimed at enhancing the economic growth and expansion of the province. Also, following the written invitation, I extended the same invitation to the president to visit Hamadan province.

Mr. Nowruzi then thanked the chief of the judiciary for bringing legal suits in international tribunals against those who have acted in treacherous ways toward the sacred shrines (and have violated their sanctity repeatedly). He expressed hope that such actions will result in the cleansing of the Kaabah from the filth of these which may be likened to Abu-Lahab and Abu-Sofian [enemies of the Prophet].

In continuation the speaker emphasized: It is clear to all, even to our enemies, that officials of the regime and high level as well as middle management have dedicated their lives to running the country and alleviating the needs and difficulties of the people. On the other hand, as history testifies, there have been none or few nations more dedicated and loyal than our nation. What is certain is that, if the potential of these two dedicated and constructive factors can be combined to interact without any hindrances, all the destructions resulting from the hundreds of years of rule by the pleasure-seeking Qajar and Pahlavi kings and the imposed war will be corrected. Also, it will cause the Islamic and Iranian creativity and ingenuity to boost the country in the areas of reconstruction and economy.

The question is, why has some of this energy been wasted and why doesn't it have the highest output. I believe the profiteer, middlemen, obstructive elements, and foreign agents—no matter how small in number—are the main culprits. If for once our regime conducts a complete and correct analysis of these obstructions and hindrances and the elements responsible for them, and decides, God willing, to utilize the sword of justice of 'Ali (peace be upon him) in lieu of the repetitious and useless weapon of advice, then the effects of a desirable connection between the officials and the people will appear in all fields.

One of the factors that manipulates the national economy from hiding and refuses to reveal itself, due to its dark and shameless past, is the liberals. Although small in number, they exist as nameless, faceless, and obstructive elements in the national planning and executive organizations. In the guise of experienced experts and specialists, they feed their views to specialized and pious managers who are entangled in a sea of work day and night and thus impose billions of tomans on national reconstruction schemes. The problem is such that executive organizations and their executive arms, such as contractors and consultants, are faced with confusion and disruptions in the smooth flow of work. This has resulted in serious flaws in national reconstruction and if a quick resolution to this issue is not achieved, more problems will result.

However, a few managers under the influence of that crowd attempt to intensify their activities. In order to show that they are successful executive managers, they use any and all unruliness and assign sacred values to such views of liberal experts. They consider the views and decisions of liberals to be on the same level as those sanctioned by the Majles and the judiciary (documents and evidence in this regard will be presented in due time).

The expert forces who have gone to the fronts and have given martyrs are fired. In their place those who have received medals and commendations from the deposed shah and have even darker pasts than themselves are hired. The situation has reached a point where they threaten, "to exit from another door if these Moslem kids enter through this door". They are fast trying to put in place their likes in lieu of the dedicated forces in order—according to the misguided perception of themselves and their associates—to control the tools and levers and propagate their outdated and obsolete westernized ideas.

Therefore, as an individual who has spent years in the executive trenches and is somewhat familiar with its tricks and harsh treatments, I request that a delegation or delegations composed of experts and specialists who bear good names and have gone to the fronts and who live among the lower to middle class—void of any fear of foreign culture—be selected in order to study the roots of these problems detached from any considerations and present a comprehensive, precise, and correct report to the country's officials.

In conclusion, the representative of the people of Malayer thanked the officials and the government in connection with their efforts concerning the alleviation of needs and hardships suffered by the quake victims. He also pointed out to the Ministry of Islamic Guidance that the city region of Malayer, with a population of 350,000 people, lacks even one suitable guest house and in the past 11 years not even 11 million toman have been invested in the areas of guidance or cultural and tourist activities in this city. He asked for serious considerations in this regard.

Deputies' Notices to the Executive Officials

- Mr. Zakeri, Quchan deputy: To the Ministry of Energy; expediting the construction of Quchan's Tabarakabad dam.
- Mr. Rowhanizadeh, Qaem-Shahr and Savadkuh deputy: To the Ministry of Health, Treatment, and Medical Education; expediting the 96 bed hospital of Savadkuh and Pol-e Sefid Clinic. To the Interior Ministry; expediting the formation of Kiakolah district.
- Mr. Akrami, Semnan deputy: To the Ministry of Roads and Transportation; expediting the surveying of the first lane of Semnan-Garmsar road. To the Petroleum Ministry; expediting the construction of gas stations between Damghan, Semnan, and Sorkeh-Garmsar.
- Mr. Moqtada'i, Abadan deputy: To the interior Ministry; prevention of concentration of reconstruction authority in Khuzestan governorate general and delegation of authority to the governor of Abadan and that city's reconstruction official. Expediting the goods need for reconstruction of Abadan. Expediting the prompt allocation of Abadan's reconstruction credits.
- Mr. Qahreman Rahmani, Takestan deputy: To the Ministry of Education and Training; converting the Education and Training district of Ziaabad of Takestan to region.
- Mr. Movahhedi-Savoji, Saveh deputy: To the Ministry of Agriculture; formation of the Agency for Expansion of Agricultural Machinery.
- Dr. Sheybani, Tehran deputy: To the president; utilization of trucks belonging to the armed forces, with the approval of the exalted leadership, to transport the essential goods needed by the people, especially building materials, and giving tires and spare parts to trucks which are active in transportation.
- Mr. Seyyed 'Aliakbar Taha'i, Tonekabon and Ramsar deputy: To the Ministry of Defense and Armed Forces Logistics; expediting the payment of pension to families of the armed forces MIA's.

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[Text]

Nabiollah Raji, Na'in Deputy: Only Those Dedicated to Velayat-e Faqih [rule of the supreme jurisconsult] Should be Allowed to Enter the Council of Experts

Mr. Nabiollah Raji was the first pre-agenda speaker in yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He offered his condolences to the afflicted compatriots for the recent earthquake and commended the government, the people, and the revolution institutions for their eye-catching efforts.

He then referred to the annual session of the council of experts and said: The annual session of the council of experts is an opportune time for me to offer my congratulations for the wise and studious action taken by the experts of the nation in electing His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i as the leader of the Islamic revolution after the passing of the imam.

Now, after the passing of over a year, the suitability and wisdom of this selection has become more evident. Without a doubt, this selection is the most decisive guarantee in the continuation of the shining path of His Eminence in following the objectives of the Islamic revolution and the world Islamic movement.

In this one year and some, we observed the prophet-like behavior of the imam in the words, messages, and actions of the exalted leadership of the revolution. We also witnessed how this noble son of the imam and Islam has defended the faith, respect, and majesty of Islam, the revolution, and the country before the hooligans of the time, headed by America. His statements in confronting the issue of direct negotiations and those who suggest a connection with America and his revelation of their weakness, immaturity, and terrified simple-mindedness is still ringing in our ears.

In continuation, he added: Indeed, if it were not for this imam-like graciousness and majesty, how could we erase the damaging impressions and abjectness of the last inauspicious notions of negotiating with America?

In any event, safeguarding the respect and strength of the country and the revolution after the passing of his eminence, the imam, is owed the historic and auspicious selection of the dear experts of the nation. If it were any different, it is not clear in what situation or condition we would be. Here it is necessary to direct the attention of our dear people to the important and fate-making elections to the council of experts which will take place in the next month of Mehr [23 September-22 October]. Without a doubt, the life of the revolution and Islam is collateral to this election. On one hand, the widespread participation of the people is absolutely necessary and, on the other hand, care and sensitivity in the selection of individuals is a divine obligation. Only those who are, in words and deed, dedicated to the rule of the jurisconsult should be allowed to enter this fate-making council. They must, with all of their existence, be aware of the primary and fundamental role of this principle in the continuation of the revolution and the line of the imam. I am certain that at this time, also, the dedicated and aware people of our country will send those to the council of experts who are sensitive towards the fate of the revolution and the regime of the Islamic republic and have proven their sincere loyalty to velayat-e faqih and the exalted leadership, His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i.

Considering the ineptitude of the Al Sa'ud concerning the administration of the two holy shrines and in regard to the Mina Tunnel catastrophe, he said: The Mina Tunnel catastrophe is also an event worthy of attention. This event, once more, demonstrated the ineptitude and unworthiness of the corrupt and American-regime of Al Sa'ud. It also demonstrated the animosity of this mercenary family toward Moslem pilgrims to the House of God. However, this possibility should not be discarded, that the said catastrophe was designed by American advisors in order to limit the Hajj pilgrimage for future years. There is much proof and evidence confirming this possibility.

In this connection, the true imperialistic and deceitful nature of the mass media and also western human rights organizations must be revealed for having the audacity to keep silent concerning this dreadful catastrophe which, according to unofficial figures, cost 4,000 lives. Once again, they have proven that they have no mission other than covering for the crimes of arrogance and their lackeys. These organizations demonstrated that they are sensitive only in regard to punishment of terrorists and murderers and never pay heed to the debts of the innocent who are sacrificed by the aggressive nature of those imperialists in every corner of the world.

Concerning the clash of poverty and wealth, the speaker said: Among other issues is the great aspiration of the clash of poverty and wealth. This is an aspiration that every single one of us is obligated to endeavor to keep alive. In this confrontation and struggle, if we show any sign of weakness for any reason and take a step back, we will leave much destruction which cannot be mended. In this connection, the role of the press and mass media is more sensitive. They are obligated to keep alive the hatred of the people and the officials against the leech-like capitalist comfort seekers and the painless well-to-do and never allow the collection of wealth to penetrate the society as a value. It is appropriate here that I thank some of the press for their revelation of the activities of corrupt and plundering limited partnerships and corporations and also foundations that have engaged in plundering under various guises of sacredness. I express my appreciation and thanks for the efforts of Hojjat ol-Eslam Yunesi, the esteemed prosecutor of Tehran, for arresting the owners of the said companies and returning the plundered belongings of the people.

Concerning the revealing broadcasts of interviews in regard to limited partnerships, the representative of Na'in said: It is also being said that revealing interviews with some owners of the so-called limited partnerships have taken place which, so far, have not been broadcast by the Vision [television] of the Islamic Republic of Iran. It is my request, as a representative of the people, that such interviews be broadcast as soon as possible for clarification of corruption of plundering gangs of capitalists.

Concerning the growth of the tendency to Islam in the world at large and in particular the world of Islam, he said: In conclusion, it is necessary that I make a reference to the growth of the tendency of Islam in the world and in the world of Islam. Nowadays, even for those who have a hand in the fire of politics and world events, even from afar, it is clear that the age of return to religion, God, and the resurrection of Islam has come. In other words, a new era in the life of contemporary man has begun, and no doubt the prelude of these times was the Islamic revolution of Iran and its initiator was the great leader of the Islamic revolution, His Eminence, the late imam.

It is due to this fact that the exalted leader of the revolution rightfully called this era the Era of Khomeyni, and there is not a day in the world news when there is no talk of Islamic leaps and movements of return to Islam. Recently a Canadian publication wrote, "The century of Islam is under way" and added that "as the Islamic revolution has had widespread effects all over the world, this will cause several Islamic revolutions in the world." Also, another publication has written, "Islam moves toward the heart of Africa."

Yes, resurrection of Islam is an undeniable reality which is much refreshing and hopeful for the downtrodden nations of the world. It is a dreadful nightmare, however, for arrogance and tyrants. Therefore, they shall try with all their might to harness this leap, but divine traditions and all evidence and political, social, and cultural proof point to the ever-increasing might and final victory of the contemporary Islamic movement. Without a doubt, this will coincide with the appearance of the great savior, his holiness Mehdi (may God speed his return) and the divine promise of the providence of inheritance of the pious on earth will be realized.

In conclusion, the Na'in deputy gave several notices to the executive officials as follows:

A. To the Regional Esfahan Water Organization concerning the executive implementation of drinking water for Na'in.

B. To the Ministry of Reconstruction Jihad concerning the repair of rural roads in his constituency.

C. To the Ministry of Post, Telegraph, and Telephone in regard to the 400 number telephone of Khur [as published] and the 100 number....

D. To the Ministry of Interior in regard to the weakness of management in the Na'in City Hall.

E. To the judicial system concerning the inability of Na'in court to confront crimes.

Mr. Babakhas; in Yesterday's Open Session of the Islamic Consultative Majles: Officials in Every Region Must Endeavor for the Good of and Respect for the People

Mr. 'Ali Mohammad Babakhas, representing the Paveh and Uramanat constituency, was the second pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles. He praised the sacred spirit of His Eminence, the late imam, greeted the exalted leadership, and offered his condolences to the survivors of the earthquake. He asked that the president appoint sensitive people to take care of the affairs of the earthquake victims and to ensure that no time is wasted between meetings and implementation of decisions.

He added: Violations, faults, and difficulties in financial systems may be justified if they result from individual's interests. However, in our Islamic system, we must obey and submit to the Almighty because our violation may result in right to become wrong and a rightful person to become an innocent victim.

He said: The best and most effective propaganda for exporting the Islamic revolution is the better and more correct behavior of the officials and the executives of the laws of the Islamic regime.

In another part of his statements, Mr. 'Ali Babakhas stated: After the exalted leadership, the people are the most important in terms of value and position. According to the imam, they are our masters and all of the endeavors of the officials in every region must be aimed at protecting their interests and respect for them. The measure of the service of every official is the percentage of the people's satisfaction. However, their satisfaction must be indicated by them rather than by the officials.

The Islamic Consultative Majles is the crystallization of this nation. Those people who in the most sensitive phases of the revolution supported the officials and, to solve problems, they have always been asked to assist. History shows that our people are more dedicated than peoples throughout the centuries. They have put all their capabilities on the tray of sincerity and helped deliver the Islamic regime to safe shores, despite the wishes of arrogant powers and through the most complicated political and military conflicts. Considering this, is it fair that these brave, conscious, capable, and concerned people are kept from determining their fate and that their elected representatives are kept even more unaware.

In this connection, he added: My constituency, Uramanat and Paveh, has gone through dangerous and crucial times, with a clear and commendable outcome and, despite those peculiar conditions and all those poisonous propaganda, saved not only the the region itself but the Islamic Revolution from a monumental conspiracy. Are those days over; the enemy has left Iran to itself and we do not need those people to be present on the scene any longer?

In continuation, the representative of the people of Paveh said: I have explained the problems of the region many times to the officials. I regret to say that even they do not care about the fate of the people in that region or they do not believe what we tell them. This compels me to recite a list of the problems of the region from the Majles podium. I ask the exalted leadership, the president, and speaker of the Islamic Consultative Majles to act in any way possible.

1. Several days after the passing of the imam, the news leaked out that political and military officials in the region intend to evacuate the villages of Nowsud district. In a phone conversation, I explained to the governor that there is no need to evacuate these villages. Regretfully, my warnings were without any effect. Two days later the word came that in the morning a village was surrounded and the inhabitants were given two hours to evacuate. Without any consideration for housing or food, they banished the people. At first, the governor was expressing dissatisfaction, but later he was attempting to rationalize the action. I informed all the officials about this move, but regretfully no action has been taken as of yet and the people are still wandering. Several times during Friday Prayers money has been collected for them.

2. Although there are no signs of reconstruction, except in the meeting rooms, instead of reconstruction of villages without any attention to economic, political, and emotional aspects, the establishment of townships has been suggested which is contrary to the interests of all.

3. The welfare of the Moslem refugees of Halabche has been a concern of the government of the Islamic

Republic and, thus, an adequate budget has been allocated to various organizations. However, it must be studied to determine the best ways for spending this budget, in view of various problems that have plagued the refugees to the extent that with the slightest indication by the Ba'ath regime [of Iraq] they will rush to the boarder [to return to Iraq].

4. The values and standards for the advancement of individuals is their adherence to the personal views of the governor. Negative people have adequate grounds for growth because they are favored. However, sincere and truthful people are in a bind and out of favor. I have spoken about this matter with the governor-general, but he also wants what is being done within his sphere of influence.

5. The policies of the Islamic Republic in various regions of the country change with the transfer of officials—especially in the Kurdish region. During the administration of every governor or an executive, a number of people enjoy growth, based on the personal taste of the particular official and without any regard for the interest of the regime. I request that officials present specific plans and policies, in accordance with the Constitution and considering the special conditions of every region, to be followed by all. I ask the commander-in-chief of the armed forces to determine a special role for the local combatant forces so that they are not subject to differing personal tastes.

6. Taking into consideration the cultural, religious, social, and political peculiarity of each region, the respective officials in the capital should pay attention to the sincere, dedicated, and tested local forces when considering the selection of appointees for their respective offices in the region.

7. In view of the special conditions prevailing in Uramanat, Paveh, and Javanrud, conducting a seminar titled "Eradicating deprivation" was suggested in order to determine the overall policy. The necessary orders in this regard were issues and the president and the then speaker of the Majles promised to offer adequate assistance in this regard. Regretfully, due to the lack of cooperation by provincial officials, our suggestion was forgotten.

Mr. Babakhas in continuation said: Stating these issues and problems is my own idea and independent of my associates, friends, relatives, and family. I hope they are not made the target of the objection and anger of the provincial officials. I also hope that the esteemed officials will act swiftly to alleviate the problems and not cause more disappointment in the people, which may also have security repercussions.

In conclusion, he gave some notices to the minister of health, treatment, and medical education and to the administrator of the physical education organization concerning the health and sports problems of his constituency.

Khodanazar Qasemi, Dashtestan Deputy: The Lack of Attention and Carelessness of Some of the Officials, Along with Favoritism and Bribery in [Government] Offices, Bother the People

The last pre-agenda speaker during yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles was Mr. Khodanazar Qasemi, the representative of the people of Dashtestan. In his speech, he offered his congratulations on the occasion of Id-e Ghadir and then offered his condolences to the people on the occasion of the devastating earthquake. He expressed hope that, with the grace of God and the determination of the dear nation in cooperation with the government of the Islamic Republic, the problems and difficulties arising from this sad calamity can be alleviated.

In another part of his speech, he referred to the regretful Mina Tunnel event and said: The past days were filled with sadness for the world Moslems. The regretful Mina event leaves no doubt that the Saudi rulers are not worthy of administering the two holy shrines. It is hoped that Islamic scholars and leaders of Islamic countries, especially the motherland of Islam [Iran], do not keep silent in regard to this horrendous and bitter disaster and do not allow the file of this ghastly criminal act to be closed unilaterally.

Mr. Qasemi then pointed out the difficulties of Bushehr Province, especially his constituency, and said: Concerning the problems and worries of the citizens of Bushehr Province and especially the Dashtestan region, I really do not know where to begin and complain about which one of the many pains of the deprived people. Should I talk about the shortage of drinking water, with its devastating effects in the city and villages, should I talk about the worries of farmers and villagers, the shortage of educational facilities and the deprivation of the youth in the province from sport and recreational facilities, the carelessness and lack of attention of some of the officials, along with favoritism and bribe-taking in offices, which has put the people out of patience by harassment—to a point which if one does not have a connection, one will be void of any results—or the brave combatants and youth who carried the red banner of honor and pride and today are faced with the pains of the revolution and defense of values and principals? The lack of attention to the aspirations of the revolution, however, have been bothering them the most. It is being felt that the grounds for their belittling and their elimination are being prepared under various pretenses. These days, regretfully, the health and treatment situation of Bushehr Province is in quite a disarray, due to weak management which is being imposed upon our deprived people. There are many problems in the 17 Shahrivar Hospital of Borazjan, causing much discomfort for the people. In the not-so-distant past, several important surgeries were being performed in this hospital and much service was being offered to all of the towns and cities in the province. However, for the past two years its operating room has been effectively shut down and, due to the managing director's lack of consideration, the morale of the dedicated personnel of the hospital is at its lowest. The deprived people of Dashtestan suffer much hardship to receive the most basic medical services. Only God knows the true impact on the people of the inherent weaknesses in the management of the health and treatment office of the province. I have discussed the matter several times with the managing director of the provincial health and treatment office and Dr. Jazayeri. However, regretfully, in the absence of even the slightest attention, in confronting the problems created by the person of the managing director he blamed the people. When he was told the people would like to talk to you about their problems he rudely balks at such encounter and his audacity reaches a point that he heightens the level of disrespect towards the most noble basiji forces and the people who put up with all sorts of tragedies during eight years of an uneven and unfair war. Disrespect towards those whose support for the imam and the revolution never wavered despite the martyrdom of their children. In a letter addressed to the governor-general's office and which he sent a copy to the Ministry, he considers these people to be of dubious belief. Excellency, esteemed minister of health and treatment! Know that the esteemed Friday Prayer Leader of the city region, the clergy in the region, the Guard Corps, the information office, the governorate, all other institutions, and the Hezbollah people are in despair from the incapability of your managing director. We ask that you send a delegation to the city region to find out with what the people have to put up. About the ignorance of your managing director, it suffices to say that in a letter to the Ministry he asks that I be given warning. This person who plays the trumpet from its wide end must know that, according to the law, it is the representative who gives warning to executive officials and not the reverse. Any how, I hope that the problems of the people are seriously tended to. These good people should not only be praised in connection with the assistance they gave to the revolution during its most crucial times, but they should be listened to and their ideas should be valued.

The speaker then pointed out that high prices and inflation, more than ever before, are putting undue pressure upon the downtrodden in the society and said: Regretfully, with the passing of every day, the deprived of the society become more deprived and the painless well-to-do become wealthier. The present trend is such that the grounds for growth and propagation of corruption and deviation in the society are increasing. We must realize that this crushing pressure is being applied upon those who are the main supporters of the revolution, and the continuation and stability of the revolution is dependent upon them.

In another part of his speech, he addressed the administrative organization of the country and said: Unfortunately, not much has been done about the administrative system and it is not in line with the principles and values of our revolution. A major consideration is required to find a system proportionate with the aspirations and sacred goals of the revolution, and widespread efforts must be made to enlighten the administrative atmosphere.

Concerning the status of the Environmental Protection Organization, the representative of the people of Dashtestan said: Unfortunately, the activities of this organization in Bushehr Province have been minimal. Concerning the trapping of hunting birds, although much hardship is applied on local trappers for catching a single bird, profiteering bands—in collusion with the officials of this organization—trap many of these birds every year and send them to Arab countries. On one hand the deprived people of the region are arrested and sent to jail for trapping one bird, and on the other hand guests from Arab countries are invited to the region and provided with facilities for leisure, hunting, and revelry in luxurious tents and before the eyes of the people. If such activities are thought advisable, then it must be asked what good purpose it serves when the respect and fighting spirit of the brave people, whose record of fighting foreigners is the cause of pride, is being disregarded? In any event, the revolutionary and combatant people of this hero-nurturing region seriously expect that such activities be halted.

Continuing his remarks, the speaker added: As was requested during the premiership of His Excellency Engineer Musavi, in a letter to the minister of petroleum I request that priority be given to the people in regard to gas distribution, and His Excellency Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president, on his visit to the province also gave the promise of favorable action, I ask the esteemed minister of petroleum to take appropriate action in regard to the supplying of gas to Bushehr Province. I ask that the Ministry of Housing take serious action concerning the reconstruction of Darva'i Village. I ask from the Ministries of Economic Affairs and Finance and Housing to act swiftly to resolve the land issue for the combatants of Borazjan which has been lingering since 63 [21 March 1984-20 March 1985]. I ask the Ministry of Industries to take the appropriate action concerning the date packaging plant in Dashtestan. I extend my special gratitude to the dear brothers of the reconstruction jihad of the province, especially Borazjan city region, for their troubles and efforts in the region.

The Single-Urgency Provision of the Plan To Add One Article to the National Election Law Was Passed

Legal and Majles Division: The bill to correct the 1369 [21 March 1990-20 March 1991] budget law was the first item on the agenda of yesterday's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles which was passed by the deputies.

According to our correspondent's report, based on a suggested amendment which was passed by the deputies, it has been stated: In order to expedite and facilitate the implementation of the plans for reconstruction and rebuilding of war-damaged areas and reconstruction of areas effected by unexpected events subjects of Note 31 and Paragraph Six of the first part of Note Six of the

1369 National Budget Law respectively, if the said plans face shortages of funds, rials or foreign exchange, due to physical progress or increased absorption capacity, it shall be allowed—per the suggestion of the Plan and Budget Organization and approval of the Council of Ministers—to increase the allocated budget up to double the original amount designated in the 1369 budget. This increase shall be compensated from savings in other allocations earmarked for the 1369 budget year. Also, $300 million shall be allocated for use in the earthquake-stricken areas from the surplus incomes in addition to those mentioned in table one of part 11 of the 1369 National Budget Law.

In addition, according to this bill, the Plan and Budget Organization can increase the allocations for some provisions of the current year's budget law (such as the civil servant insurance plan, the Higher Education and Research Chapter, the Presidential Institution, the Government Audit Organization, the Consumers and Producers Protection Organization, civil servants salary increases.)

Also, during yesterday afternoon's open session of the Majles, the plan to attach a single-article to the Election Law was put forth with one hundred signatures and with a single-urgency provision. The single-urgency of the plan was put to a vote and was passed. (It must be noted that the objective of this plan is to curtail the advertising aspect of national elections.)

The last item on the agenda was the second round of discussions of the judicial and legal commission concerning the legal plan for punishment of saboteurs of the national economic regime. The continuation of discussions was postponed until the next session of the Majles.

In yesterday afternoon's open session of the Islamic Consultative Majles, the legal plan to authorize the purchase of public transportation vehicles from abroad was presented to the Majles with a single-urgency provision. The single-urgency provision was not approved.

Our correspondent's report indicates that receipt of the legal plan for security of the National Aviation was announced.

Pakistan

Premier Jatoi Leaves for Saudi Arabia, UAE

BK1209113690 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1100 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi, left Karachi today on a whirlwind tour of the Middle East, which will take him to Saudi Arabia, UAE [United Arab Emirates], Dubayy, and Bahrain. He was seen off at the airport by the Sindh chief minister, Jam Sadiq Ali; senior officials, diplomats, and prominent citizens. In a statement issued at the airport, the prime minister said that Iraqi aggression against Kuwait and its subsequent annexation has created a highly explosive situation in the region. The United Nations, the Islamic Conference, as well as Arab League have condemned the Iraqi aggression and refused to respect its consequences. The prime minister said that Pakistan, too, has adopted a principled stand on the issue and has supported all efforts aimed at securing a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis. He said: We have joined other countries in applying the economic sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council against Iraq and have also, in response to a request from our Saudi brothers, dispatched a contingent of our armed forces to help in defending the sanctity of the holy places.

Mr. Ghulam Mustafa Jatoi assured wholehearted support for the territorial integrity of Saudi Arabia to King Fahd and said that he would apprise the king of Pakistan's efforts to seek a peaceful settlement of the Gulf crisis in accordance with the UN resolutions.

The prime minister said on his way back home, he will visit UAE and exchange views with President Shaykh Zayid Bin-Sultan Al Nuhayyan on recent developments in the region. The prime minister will also pay visit to Dubayy and Bahrain and will hold discussions with the leaders of these countries.

Spokesman Denies PRC Arms Liaison for Iraq

BK1109155090 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] An official spokesman in Islamabad today rebutted in strong terms the report published in the recent edition of FAR EASTERN ECONOMIC REVIEW that said that some Pakistani military officers had approached Chinese arms suppliers for the purchase of munitions for Iraq. The spokesman described the report as absolutely and categorically unfounded. He stated that no Pakistani officer had contacted any weapons supplier. He added that Pakistan is committed to the UN stand on the current Gulf crisis.

President Khan To Visit China 20-25 Sep

BK1209132090 Islamabad Domestic Service in English 1300 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] President Ghulam Ishaq Khan will be paying a five-day visit to China from the 20th of this month. He will be the chief guest at the opening ceremony of the Asian Games in Beijing. The president will also have talks with the Chinese leaders on bilateral matters and regional and international issues of interest to the two countries. Radio Pakistan's diplomatic representative says Pakistan and China have deep-rooted friendship which has stood the test of time and they have common perception on most of the world issues.

Former PPP Minister Arrested in Loralai

BK1209031590 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 0200 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Text] The ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN, quoting official sources in Quetta, has reported that Mir Baz Mohammad Khan Khetran, a federal minister in the former Pakistan People's Party government, has been arrested at his native village of Chattar in Loralai District. The arrest has been made under a criminal case which was filed at [words indistinct] a few days ago.

APP Details Corruption Cases Against Bhutto

BK1109170290 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu 1500 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] ASSOCIATED PRESS OF PAKISTAN [APP] quoting highly reliable sources says the two references filed against the former prime minister, Ms. Benazir Bhutto, yesterday involved decisions taken by her which would have cost the public exchequer over 200 million rupees in foreign exchange. One of the references relates to the sale of cotton to a foreign firm at the rate 61.37 pence per pound, while the minimum export price as determined by the government at that time was 69.78 pence. The decision cost the Government of Pakistan over 100 million rupees in foreign exchange. The decision was made by Ms. Benazir Bhutto in violation of the government's own clear directive that no deal would be allowed below the prevailing minimum export price. Although the Cotton Exports Corporation, Karachi Cotton Exchange and the All Pakistan Textile Mills Owners Association protested strongly, the prime minister did not listen.

APP further says that the second reference related to a contract for expansion of the Karachi electric system which was to be awarded at the insistence of Ms. Benazir Bhutto to a foreign firm charging at least 100 million rupees more than the lowest bidder. According to reliable information, the board of directors of Karachi Electric System Corporation, after evaluating all international bidders, selected a first-rate contractor for the job. Their selection had been fully approved by the Asian Development Bank which was the financing body. The Ministry of Water and Power had also agreed with this selection. However, the former prime minister set aside all these formal decisions and without giving any reason insisted on awarding the contract to another firm which would have charged at least 100 million rupees more in foreign exchange.

Two New Charges Filed

BK1209094090 Hong Kong AFP in English 0920 GMT 12 Sep 90

[Excerpts] Lahore, Pakistan, Sept 12 (AFP)—Pakistan's interim government Wednesday filed two new complaints against ousted Premier Benazir Bhutto as police arrested a second of her ministers, court sources said. The complaints, filed in a special court in Lahore on behalf of President Ghulam Ishaq Khan, concern a land deal and allotment of a contract for liquified petroleum gas, they said.

Official sources said hearings were to start Saturday in a special court headed by Justice Rashid Aziz Khan, who must decide whether the complaints carry enough weight to merit filing charges against the former premier. The single-judge court is already handling a case of alleged illegal bank transactions by Ghulam Mohammed Maneka, formerly a minister in Ms. Bhutto's 20-month government.

The government Monday filed two complaints against Ms. Bhutto in a special court in Karachi in connection with the appointment of a consultant for an Asian Development Bank power project and awarding of a contract for the export of cotton at below-market prices. If convicted, Ms. Bhutto could be disqualified from participating in politics for seven years, officials said.

Of the cases filed Wednesday, one involves the sale of 287 acres of valuable land in the capital Islamabad for a nominal price on which a hotel was to be built, the sources said. The other involves the alleged awarding of liquefied gas contracts to favorites, they said. [passage omitted]

Officials Seize 30 Kg Heroin in Karachi

BK0209032690 Lahore THE NATION in English 1 Sep 90 p 2

[Text] Karachi—Excise and Taxation officials have recovered 30 kio of heroin from a truck here on Thursday [30 August].

On instructions of Minister for Excise and Taxation Sindh, Mr Mumtaz Ali Talpur, Secretary Excise and Taxation Sindh, Bashir Ahmed Moriani, directed the excise and taxation officer District South, Karachi for seizure of narcotics coming from tribal areas.

An excise inspector District South, Karachi, and his party was deputed for this task who after vigilance succeeded in locating a suspected truck No. 6789 moving towards Lyari General Hospital, Karachi. The vehicle was stopped and its search led to the recovery of 30 kilo of fine quality of heroin power hidden in the diesel tank of the said truck.

Sri Lanka

Colombo Reports Minister's Visit to Kuwait, Iraq

BK1109140690 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The minister of labor and vocational training, G.M. Premachandra, says Sri Lanka is discussing the evacuation of Sri Lankans with international relief organizations and the European Economic Community. The minister, who arrived in Amman yesterday at the end of a five-day visit to Iraq and Kuwait, said that 60,000 of the 80,000 workers there were housemaids. The minister noted that the repatriation via Jordan would take two to three months. It would be done both by sea and by an airbridge from Amman to Colombo.

Minister Premachandra further said that Sri Lankan ambassadors in Australia and Malaysia have been asked to request for chartered planes to airlift Sri Lankans from Jordan. He pointed out that Air Lanka and the Jordanian national carrier have already started two chartered flights carrying 500 people on a daily basis. Some 5,000 Sri Lankans have already crossed into Jordan and are staying at the makeshift camps at the Ruwayshid border point.

Mr. Premachandra said that during his stay in Iraq and Kuwait, he visited Sri Lankans in Kuwait. He added that some 5,000 of them were staying at the premises of Sri Lanka's Embassy in Kuwait. Mr. Premachandra is due to return home tomorrow morning.

EEC To Meet Evacuation Cost for Sri Lankans

BK1109135890 Colombo Domestic Service in English 1245 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] The European Economic Community has decided to meet the cost of repatriating all the Sri Lankans rendered destitute as a result of the current crisis in the Middle East. The EEC has taken this decision as a humanitarian gesture. It is reported that there are 8,000 to 9,000 Sri Lankans stranded in Jordan, 500 in Saudi Arabia, and 250 in Egypt. Smaller numbers are in Iran, Turkey, and the United Arab Emirates. The first aircraft to be chartered by the EEC for this massive airlift is an Air Lanka Tristar which will bring home 230 Sri Lankans from Amman around 1400 today. According to our ambassador in Brussels, the EEC is anxious to complete this airlift as early as possible.

Security Forces Arrest 10 LTTE Terrorists

BK0909093490 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0823 GMT 9 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, 9 Sept (LANKAPUVATH)—Ten LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] terrorists were arrested by security forces, while two soldiers were wounded in separate LTTE attacks yesterday in the Northeast. Military sources told LANKAPUVATH that ten LTTE terrorists were picked up from a refugee camp by security forces, in Nilaweli in the Eastern Province.

The sources said that at Kinniya, a security forces route clearing party was fired upon by terrorists. The troops repulsed the attack. One soldier was wounded. LTTE terrorists also fired at security forces, who were on a route clearing mission in Mullaitivu. One soldier was wounded in the attack the sources said.

50 Tamils Feared Killed by 'Terrorist' Group

BK1109035590 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0240 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] In Sri Lanka, more than 50 Tamil civilians are feared killed by an unidentified terrorist group in Eravur area of Batticaloa yesterday. A spokesman of the ENDLF [Eelam National Democratic Liberation Front] told our Colombo correspondent, Karupaswamy, that the terrorists took into custody about 200 Tamils from the boys camp, four kilometers north of Batticaloa, to an unknown place and killed many. A senior military official from Batticaloa, who could not confirm the massacre, however confirmed the missing of Tamil civilians in the area.

Eastern Province Calmer as Troops Pursue LTTE

BK1109105190 Colombo LANKAPUVATH in English 0905 GMT 11 Sep 90

["OANA/Pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, Sept 11 (LANKAPUVATH)—The Eastern Province of Sri Lanka is settling down to normalcy with arrangements being made by the peace committee and the authorities to transport food through lorries owned by multi purpose operatives. Official sources told LANKAPUVATH that LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] pockets at Thoppigala were being pursued and eliminated.

The food situation in the Batticaloa Town and its environs had been considerably eased and the situation, under Major General Gerry Silva, was under full control. In the north Major General Kobbekaduwa had led a successful siege on the LTTE stronghold of Mullaitivu. Vavuniya Town and its environs have been cleared and the "Johnny" mines planted by the LTTE were being removed. Unfortunately troops had to inch their way or risk going through water to the fort, against concentrated attacks of fire.

This week, according to the sources, Jaffna Fort will be taken and the Jaffna Peninsula too will be under full control of civil administration. The LTTE in a desperate attempt to gain world sympathy which it had completely lost, is carrying out wild canards aimed at deceiving the Christian church, particularly about bombings of Christian areas and the distribution of pamphlets purported to be issued by nuns about imaginative [as received] attacks on imaginative targets.

LTTE Launches Attacks From Jaffna Hospital

BK1109120590 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 11 Sep 90

[Text] It has been reported that the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] have once again started firing mortars from the premises of the Jaffna Hospital and its adjoining areas. The security forces have not resorted to counter mortar fire to destroy the LTTE mortar positions as they do not want to cause damage to the Jaffna Hospital. However, if the LTTE terrorists continue to fire their mortars from the Jaffna Hospital premises and cause casualties to the security forces and to the police in the Jaffna Fort, they will be compelled to take action to neutralize these LTTE mortar positions.

A communique by the Defense Ministry says there is a great deal of information now flowing in from civilians and those taken in by the security forces for questioning. On information received from these sources, security forces recovered over 16,000 rounds of 7.62 and 5.56 ammunition and 350 kg of explosives from Karuvakkeni in the Batticaloa District. The government appeals to all peace-loving citizens of the north and east, who believe in the democratic system and tradition, to provide information on LTTE terrorist hideouts and movements to wipe out this terrorist menace from Sri Lankan soil.

According to the communique, the ship MV Amazon left Colombo Harbor on Sunday with a consignment of food, essential items, and medical supplies for Kayts and the neighboring islands. The ship MV Lanka Siri is loading a shipment of food, essential items, and medical supplies for the Jaffna Peninsula. The major items being loaded are flour, rice, dal [lentils], sugar, the Luxspray, Vitaspray, Vitamilk, tea, garlic, cumin seed, coriander, and soap.

Meanwhile, donations to the National Defense Fund have exceeded the 164-billion-rupee mark.